South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in the Arab States
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Foreword

Mr. Mourad Wahba,
Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau
for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places a high value on South-South cooperation (SSC) as a means to ensure universal access to knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how. SSC is proving to be an effective development multiplier and means for promoting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, universally adopted by Member States in 2015.

Arab States have become key actors over the past 40 years in the sphere of international development, particularly in terms of SSC. As mentioned in the report, from 1973 to 2008, the value of SSC in the region exceeded $272 billion and averaged 1.5 per cent of the combined gross national income of the Arab States, more than twice the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GDP for official development assistance and five times the average of the countries of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC). Arab States are assisting countries across the region and around the world to stimulate development through cooperation while addressing issues of national priority and radiating to issues of regional and global importance.

UNDP is fully committed to supporting the development of capacities of Member States to engage in SSC as they implement the 2030 Agenda and their national development plans. By examining various models of SSC across the region, the report offers examples of innovative approaches, insights into how SSC is being used to catalyze the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, and recommendations for more effective use of SSC as a mode of collaboration and partnership.

We are pleased to have partnered with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in preparing this report on the state of SSC in the Arab States region. We also acknowledge and thank colleagues and partners across the region who have provided valuable substantive input to the report. It is our sincere hope that the report will serve as helpful reference material as our colleagues and partners explore and use SSC as a modality for sustainable development.

Mr. Jorge Chediek,
Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation
and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

South-South cooperation is a demand-driven modality that is increasingly showing its ability to produce tangible development results. It emphasizes mutual responsibility based on solidarity and the recognition that all countries have something valuable to contribute.

South-South cooperation enables countries to learn from one another and take the leadership of their own development paths. In this regard, the development community has seen a marked increase in activities and programmes such as knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, financing and peer support, the development of common development agendas and the sharing of collective solutions.

As an advocate, coordinator and facilitator of South-South exchanges, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) assists Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders in exploring synergies and harnessing global opportunities to address their development challenges. UNOSSC is responsible for monitoring the progress in implementing various resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Through its work, the Office seeks to encourage the engagement of various stakeholders to accelerate growth and development towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals.

UNOSSC is seeking through this report to broaden the scope of thinking and facilitate wider knowledge exchanges on development successes and lessons learned across the Arab States. The report provides an overview of the national and regional development priorities of the Arab States and assesses South-South cooperation within Arab States and between Arab States and other countries of the Global South. It identifies South-South cooperation trends and challenges as well as several models of national and regional Arab South-South cooperation. It further outlines concrete measures to advance Arab South-South cooperation for sustainable development.

I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize that this report was initiated and developed jointly by UNOSSC and UNDP. It is the result of broad consultations and the participation of a variety of stakeholders, including national focal points and key regional stakeholders. In this regard, I would like to express to them my gratitude and appreciation for their tremendous efforts and acknowledge their expertise in developing the recommendations that emerged.
From the Project Coordinator:

Many would agree that the global development cooperation landscape has undergone significant transformation in the previous two decades. The era of mono-vector cooperation, whereby certain countries would qualify only as suppliers of technical assistance, or donors, and other countries would be considered only as recipients of such technical assistance, or beneficiaries, has come to its natural end. As more and more countries worldwide engage in collaborative learning to equitably share innovative and replicable cost-efficient solutions to address their development challenges, cooperation has become more inclusive and, importantly, more complex and multi-vector. In this new development cooperation reality, some countries can simultaneously assume the roles of both provider and recipient of technical cooperation, finding new and innovative responses to their socioeconomic and environmental challenges, ranging from poverty and food security to climate change and demographics.

In this context, the shift in the evolution of South-South cooperation is remarkable and is reflected in massive flows of South-South development cooperation and the rapidly growing volumes of South-South trade and investment, in the building of new institutional capacities in support of South-South cooperation, and in a trend towards more concerted action for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It should be made clear, however, that people nowadays are attracted to the South-South cooperation model as a critical transformative factor in the global cooperation landscape not only because of the growing financial power of the Global South but because, when it is done well, South-South cooperation can sometimes deliver solutions faster and at a reduced cost so that one can achieve greater results with less effort and more economically.

The simple secret of its appeal lies in identifying, tapping into and deploying the considerable potential of shared resources of the Global South. These include the accumulated experience in various sectors; locally adapted and tested know-how; shared cultural assets such as languages or social identities; geographic proximity; and common social, economic and political histories.

Our overall purpose with this report has been to analyse examples of relevant efforts undertaken at the national level in the countries of the region with a view to defining a number of practical models that could be systematically applied for further regional and global cross-fertilization of ideas, solutions and capacities towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. In developing this report, we focused on delivering concrete policy recommendations to different groups of development cooperation stakeholders.

We wish you pleasant reading and hope that the examples provided and the recommendations offered will trigger concrete action on your part in advancing your respective country and institution’s development priorities that could be achieved effectively through South-South cooperation.

Edem Bakhshish
Chief, Regional Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

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The regional report South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Development in the Arab States was supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Division for Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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We also thank our colleagues Jennifer Colville, Policy Adviser, and Justus Okoko, Programme Specialist (Crisis Response Coordination), UNDP Regional Hub in Amman; Francis Luwangwa, UNDP Somalia; and Zaima Haji, General Director, Hamdi Organization for Relief and Development, for the deep insights provided during the interviews and for the comments that greatly improved the report.

We are also immensely grateful to the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development for its comments on the final version of the report; any errors are our own, however.
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Annex 1. Mapping of Arab SSC: A non-exhaustive list of SSC/TrC involving Arab States 79
Over the past five decades, South-South cooperation (SSC) has been complementing traditional cooperation through the exchange of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how among developing countries with the aim of building national capacities for sustainable development. By placing a premium on mutual learning, SSC becomes particularly relevant in the context of the implementation of the interdependent development goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The experiences of Arab States in achieving these Goals can leverage countries’ efforts towards the achievement of sustainable development.

The population of the Arab region has grown significantly in the past decades and exceeded 377 million in 2014 (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030); some of the countries are with high per capita income and other are the poorest countries across Africa and Asia. The strong heterogeneity of the region is reflected in how Arab SSC is conceived and delivered as well as in the environment in which it takes place. Traditionally, more than 80 per cent of Arab SSC has involved other Arab States through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels. Outside the region, Africa and Eastern Europe are the main partners. Arab SSC typically involves middle-income countries (MICs) and least developed countries (LDCs) while less than 40 per cent of exchanges within Arab States and between Arab States and other countries in the Global South have fragile States as partners. Arab SSC is delivered mainly through training, study tours and other knowledge-sharing initiatives that help to build partners’ capacity to take the leadership of their own development pathways. It is increasingly beginning to prioritize more structured capacity-building initiatives through regular funding, long-term relationships, knowledge transfer and other instruments for capacity development. Public-private partnerships and specialized funds also feature among the main instruments used to deliver Arab SSC. While economic cooperation remains solidly at the forefront of Arab SSC, other forms of cooperation in social sectors are moving forward, with several opportunities for linking the two substantively and operationally. Arab States participate in SSC initiatives in many different areas: mainly zero hunger, Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); gender equality (SDG 5); affordable and clean energy (SDG 7); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); climate action (SDG 13); peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16); and partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

Common patterns can be observed across countries in the same subregion and/or with similar income levels. These common patterns can also be traced in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation. These models of Arab SSC are defined by six dimensions (nature, form of engagement, institutionalization, modality,
thematic focus and funding source) and two levels (national and regional). These models further point to directions for more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of Arab SSC, enabling countries to address their national development challenges.

At the national level, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) model comprises high-income countries (HiCs) in the Gulf subregion and represents an attempt to remedy the shortcomings of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The GCC model bears similarities to the strategies followed by some of the BRICS countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) but with its own unique characteristics. One way to engage these countries in SSC is through Government-run funds, export support and infrastructure development. Countries in this model group would further benefit from aligning infrastructure development with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and South-South knowledge exchange.

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa model engage in SSC as partners offering cooperation and partners seeking cooperation and have nascent domestic policy frameworks, institutional arrangements and operational tools for managing cooperation. In the absence of a central matchmaking platform, these countries tend to use a range of tools to offer and request knowledge and expertise from their peers, often leading to ad hoc, uncoordinated efforts. One way to engage with these countries has been through triangular cooperation (TrC) arrangements with OECD/DAC donors, multilateral agencies and other Southern partners. Countries in this model group would further benefit from support to regional infrastructure development.

Countries in the Fragile State model engage in SSC mainly as partners seeking development cooperation and often lack domestic capacities and institutions for articulating and incorporating their development needs into cooperation programmes and then managing them. Other challenges include limited information at the stage of needs matching and a need for wider participation of partner countries in programme and project development. One way to engage with these countries under the SSC framework has been through special funds from other countries of the South and intraregional learning. Countries in this model group would further benefit from a more coherent SSC policy framework, clearly defined mandates and SSC focal points.

At the regional level, the reverse linkage modality provides an avenue for the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and its member countries to scale up successful stories and best practices. Other emerging models in the region include solution exchange platforms and centres of excellence that make extensive use of information technology for knowledge-sharing and partnerships with the private sector. This model innovates as it applies information technology for knowledge-sharing and develops partnerships with the private sector.

The potential for SSC in Arab States remains largely untapped, however. Most of the Arab MICs and LDCs are facing fiscal and external deficits, and many are suffering from prolonged conflict and political instability. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic, the violence in Iraq and Libya and more recently in Yemen, and the ISIS implication risk expanding to neighbouring countries, thus compromising medium-term development. These economic and political complexities hinder the consolidation of SSC and the degree of assimilation of the concept by decision makers in Arab States. While some countries have begun to structure funds and other mechanisms to deliver SSC, the overall policy and institutional environment in the region is still nascent. If knowledge about institutional arrangements and funding modalities for SSC remains low, the use of these instruments will remain at a low level.

Arab States have made broad and significant advances in addressing many of the policy, institutional and operational challenges to SSC. Models of SSC start to emerge throughout the region, pointing to directions for more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of SSC as well as enabling Arab States to address their national development challenges. Looking ahead, Arab States could consider the following actions to further enhance SSC for sustainable development:

(a) **Map development challenges against learning opportunities within and outside the region.** The cross-disciplinary, holistic and integrated nature of the SDGs will require innovative approaches and partnerships. Knowledge in all its forms has become an increasingly important ingredient of policy-making and will be called upon increasingly to provide solutions to issues affecting sustainable development. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling some of these challenges can serve as useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development;

(b) **Strengthen policy, institutional and operational structures for advancing Arab SSC.** Revamped relations among different actors during the policy process can enable knowledge exchange and co-creation and further enrich decision-making. As in other regions dominated by weak governance, however, knowledge is not effectively used for policy- and decision-making in Arab States. While all countries have development experiences to share and to learn from, Arab States need to further strengthen SSC as a concept and the enabling environment in which it takes place; and

(c) **Bridge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in SSC.** While economic cooperation remains solidly at the forefront of Arab SSC, other forms of cooperation, mainly in social sectors, are moving forward, bringing opportunities for linking the two substantively and operationally.
Advancing Arab SSC at the national and regional levels

1. Map development challenges against learning opportunities within and outside the region.
   (a) Identify development solutions in consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs), academia and other relevant actors and systematize relevant experiences.
   (b) Map national and regional development priorities.
   (c) Document lessons learned from SSC to incorporate them into future projects and ensure feedback mechanisms.

2. Strengthen policy, institutional and operational structures for advancing Arab SSC.
   (a) Assess national institutions’ installed capacity and readiness to share development solutions.
   (b) Design national policies and institutional frameworks to ensure integration and complementarity of SSC across the Government.
   (c) Provide regular reports of SSC financial and knowledge flows.
   (d) Secure regular funding for SSC mainly in countries affected by oil-price volatility.
   (e) Enhance coordination among funding providers and create institutional and regulatory frameworks.
   (f) Address the capacity needs of regional economic communities (RECs) and national institutions for undertaking SSC.

3. Bridge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in SSC.
   (a) Advocate for the integration of Arab SSC with national and regional strategies for the implementation of the SDGs.
   (b) Extend the scope of infrastructure finance to the regional level to reduce transaction costs, link national markets and boost intraregional trade and investment.
   (c) Combine two or more SSC modalities for infrastructure projects and soft-power enhancement through capacity development at the human, institutional, people’s representation and systemic levels.

For the United Nations to enhance its support to Arab SSC for sustainable development, it needs first to embrace Arab States development priorities as expressed at the country and regional levels. Therefore, it is important to review the extent to which the region has achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and outline Arab national and regional development priorities in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations can further use the national and regional models of Arab SSC as entry points for its support to more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of SSC in the region.

What role for the United Nations?

1. Facilitate Arab SSC in priority areas for the region.
   (a) Create an ‘SSC marker’ to give visibility to SSC projects and activities supported by the United Nations.
   (b) Regularly assess the Arab SSC contribution to the SDGs: review progress and identify areas for enhanced support.
   (c) Identify centres of excellence and engage them in SSC initiatives and networks.
   (d) Facilitate TrC with other developing countries within and outside the region, including through “South-South-South cooperation” arrangements.
   (e) Support foreign experts in obtaining permits to enter and exit countries to participate in South-South knowledge exchanges.

2. Scale up national efforts (policy, institutional and operational levels).
   (a) Map existing commitments, the mechanisms through which funding is disbursed, how organizations can access this funding, and potential barriers to accessing, disbursing and executing this funding.
   (b) Provide advisory support to SSC actors at the national and regional levels.
   (c) Map existing national and regional funds, the types of SSC activities sourced, and any national/regional gaps considering typologies of countries (e.g., geographic and income).
   (d) Use memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and partnership agreements between national governments and counterparts for more structured SSC.
   (e) Map national capacities for monitoring and evaluation, assess capacity gaps, and provide training to enhance national efforts.

3. Create knowledge-sharing infrastructure for sustainable development.
   (a) In collaboration with Governments and academia, systematize experiences and draw lessons for scaling up SSC.
   (b) Map existing SSC databases and knowledge platforms and integrate efforts with global initiatives such as UNDP SSMart (http://global-smart.org/).
   (c) Disseminate SSC best practices across country offices, including through regional SSC databases and knowledge platforms.
South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in the Arab States

Introduction

First Social innovation camp for youth in the Arab Region
Source: UNDP (2015)
1. Introduction

Over the past five decades, South-South cooperation (SSC)1 has been complementing traditional cooperation through the exchange of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how among developing countries with the aim of building national capacities for greater sustainable development. By placing a premium on mutual learning, SSC becomes particularly relevant in the context of the implementation of the interdependent development goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty goals that the world committed to achieving by 2015. The MDGs, adopted in 2000, aimed at an array of issues that included slashing poverty, eradicating extreme hunger, combating disease, promoting gender equality, and improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Progress was made on the MDGs, showing the value of a unifying agenda underpinned by goals and targets. Despite this success, poverty has not been ended for all. The new SDGs and the broader sustainability agenda go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Towards sustainable human development

The experiences of Arab States in achieving these goals and targets can offer learning opportunities and leverage countries’ own efforts towards sustainable development. The Arab States region comprises a population of 377 million and some of the countries with the highest per capita income as well as some of the poorest countries across the Asian and African continents.2 The strong heterogeneity of the region (see table 1) is reflected in how Arab cooperation is conceived and delivered, the environment in which it takes place, and the quantity and quality of information available to promote sustainable development.

Table 1: Income and geographic categorization of Arab States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Income Country (MIC)</th>
<th>Middle Income Country (MIC)</th>
<th>Least Developed Country (LDC)</th>
<th>Fragile States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia</td>
<td>Djibouti, Sudan, Yemen</td>
<td>Iraq, Libya, Somalia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic</td>
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This report assesses SSC within Arab States and between Arab States and other countries in the Global South and identifies opportunities for Arab policymakers and the United Nations system to enhance SSC for sustainable development in the region. The specific objectives are to:

- Systematize the unconsolidated information on SSC involving Arab States;
- Understand the main trends and challenges to SSC involving Arab States;
- Identify the main models of SSC initiatives undertaken by the countries in the region; and
- Chart a path for Arab policymakers to catalyse SSC as a tool for achieving the SDGs as well as for the United Nations to enhance its support to Arab States engaging in SSC.

Section 1 reviews Arab States achievement of the MDGs, unfinished tasks and emerging challenges in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Section 2 points out that these emerging challenges can be addressed through new approaches and collaboration such as SSC among Arab States and between Arab States and developing countries in other regions. This is followed by an assessment of the present situation and main trends of Arab SSC. The section concludes with the policy, institutional and operational challenges that Arab SSC faces and innovative responses by HICs, MICs, LDCs and fragile States in the region. Common patterns can be observed across countries with similar income levels and within the same subregion. It is further argued that these patterns can be traced in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation.

1 According to the Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (document SSC/76/3, para 10), South-South cooperation (SSC) is “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how.” This process can also comprise “regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions.” As a result, SSC contributes to increasing the adaptive capacity of countries by building capacities and enhancing options for greater sustainable development. Triangular cooperation (TC) is defined as an SSC initiative supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organization. In line with the principles of national sovereignty and ownership, developed countries and international organizations play a facilitation role and do not take the lead in executing South-South operational activities, which remain solely the domain of developing countries themselves.

2 This report considers Arab States as the group of countries and territories comprising Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the State of Palestine – following United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) categorization. The report further considers income and geographic (subregional) categorizations based on United Nations methodology and political-economy considerations such as the macro-regions of the African Union (in the case of Arab States in Africa), membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (in the case of Gulf countries) and the Middle East for the remaining Arab States. The report also analyses selected regional groupings and organizations, including the African Union Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the GCC, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
1.1 Arab States development priorities

For the United Nations to enhance its support to Arab SSC for sustainable development, it needs first to embrace Arab States development priorities as expressed at both the country and regional levels. Therefore, it is important to review to what extent the region has achieved the MDGs and outline Arab national and regional development priorities in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Arab States have made significant strides in achieving most of the MDGs (see graph 1), but there remain notable differences across countries in the region (UN and LAS, 2013). While significant progress has been made in improving living standards, progress has not been homogenous or equitable, and in some cases the gains made have not proven to be sustainable over time in the face of shocks and instability. HICs in the Gulf subregion (Saudi Arabia) and MICs in the North Africa subregion (Egypt and Tunisia) have made substantial advancement in achieving most of the MDGs. Other MICs in the Middle East and North Africa subregions (Algeria, Jordan and Morocco) registered some progress but also faced critical challenges. On the opposite end of the spectrum, LDCs in the Middle East and Horn of Africa subregions (Djibouti and Yemen) lagged behind in achieving the MDGs. In fragile States in the Middle East, North Africa and Horn of Africa subregions (Iraq, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan and the Syran Arab Republic), conflict and occupation had a negative impact on achieving the MDGs.

Graph 1. MDG Achievement Index (MGDI) for Arab States

For the United Nations to enhance its support to Arab SSC for sustainable development, it must follow up on the unfinished MDGs and embrace Arab States development priorities expressed at the country and regional levels in the context of the SDGs.

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5 Does not include Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya (covered in this report).
1.2 National development priorities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comes at a time when Arab States are still struggling with the unfinished MDGs and emerging development challenges. The cross-disciplinary, holistic and integrated nature of the SDGs will require innovative approaches and partnerships for them to be met. Knowledge in all its forms has become an increasingly important ingredient in policymaking and is often called upon to provide solutions to societal problems that hinder sustainable development. Revamped relations among different actors in the policy process have been allowing for exchanges and joint construction of knowledge, with the aim of enriching decision-making. In the Arab States region, as among other regions dominated by weak governance, knowledge is not often used effectively in policy- and decision-making. Arab States are currently facing a series of political, environmental, social and economic challenges on multiple fronts. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling some of these challenges can serve as useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development.6

Arab States face political, environmental, social and economic challenges on multiple fronts. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling these challenges can be useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development.

...In the area of governance, the Arab Spring has created ambitious demands for economic, political and social reforms in the region (SDGs 10 and 16). Job creation, particularly for women and youth, remains another development priority for the region (SDGs 5 and 8).

In the area of governance, the Arab Spring has created ambitious demands for economic, political and social reforms in the region (SDGs 10 and 16). Yet economic performance and development continue to be strongly affected by political developments whether domestic, regional or international, ongoing political instability and insecurity in several Arab States. A worrying trend in the region is the high incidence of conflict: approximately 41 per cent of Arab States suffered at least one conflict during the five-year period from 2009 to 2013, one of the highest rates in the world (ESCWA, 2014). As a result, the region now accounts for the largest number of refugees in absolute and in relative terms. For some countries, recent crises have resulted in a loss of decades of development progress. Examples of democratic governance experiences include Kuwait in the field of parliament; Morocco in trade unions and inclusiveness of Islamists in government; Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen in establishing national dialogues; and Jordan in charity and local development experiences. In addition to governance, job creation, particularly for women and youth, remains another development priority for the region (SDGs 5 and 8). Unemployment rates in 2013 surpassed their 1990 levels, with one out of four Arab youths and one out of five Arab women being jobless. Women's labour force participation rate in the Arab States reached only 26 per cent in 2010, which is the lowest rate among all regions and half the global average of 51 per cent. Paid jobs for women outside the agricultural sector in Arab States decreased from 18 to 16.8 per cent during the period 1990-2010. Not only is this figure low compared to those of other regions (faring better at 35-40 per cent), but it is also decreasing, especially in the Arab LDCs. One of the main driving forces behind the Tunisian and Egyptian revolution of 2010-2011 (lack of decent job opportunities, especially among the youth. Economic growth in the region was insufficient to absorb people entering the labour market and it continues, as witnessed by the increasing unemployment rates reaching 15 per cent in 2013 (Abu-Ismail et al., 2014). In Egypt, unemployment rates reached 13 per cent in 2013, and in the same year, three quarters of the unemployed were between the ages of 15 and 29, which clearly portray the struggles faced by Egyptian youth. Unemployment, particularly among women and youth, is also related to low levels of education. Lack of clearly identified intended learning outcome, holistic and integrated learning and teaching, learning and teaching evaluation and assessment methods, education innovations, and effective learning and teaching approaches, among others, represents serious constraints to sustainable development across the region (Hamdi Organization for Relief and Development-Mogadishu).7 Examples of youth and women empowerment initiatives include post-2011 States youth movements’ interactions and exchanges of ideas as in the heyday of the Arab Spring among youth movements from Egypt, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen as well as Tunisian trade unions and women’s role in polity and society (Sadiki, 2014).

6 The development priorities discussed in the following section will vary in importance depending on the country and subregional context. It should also be made clear that these development priorities and experiences are not intended to be exhaustive of all the region’s development challenges; rather, they illustrate some of the main challenges faced in the region.

7 Interview with Zaima Haji (head of a CSO, Somalia).
Arab States also have the lowest freshwater availability per capita worldwide combined with declining availability of arable land, land degradation and worsening climate change (SDGs 13 and 14). Alongside food security, undernourishment is another major challenge for the region (SDG 2). This and other challenges are exacerbated in the presence of conflict and crisis that affect several countries of the region.

Finally, while energy resources such as oil and gas have become embedded as the backbone of regional trade and production, not all Arab States are energy rich. Energy security is becoming a serious concern for oil-importing countries given the volatility of oil prices and inefficiencies in use and production (SDG 7). This and other challenges are exacerbated in the presence of conflict and crisis that affect several countries of the region.

Energy security is becoming a serious concern for oil-importing countries given the volatility of oil prices and inefficiencies in use and production (SDG 7). This and other challenges are exacerbated in the presence of conflict and crisis that affect several countries of the region.

1.3 Regional development priorities

Following the establishment of the global High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, ESCWA launched the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) in 2014. The Forum provides a platform for discussing the SDGs in the Arab States region on the basis of the outcomes of national and regional consultations on the 2030 development agenda. These goals include topics such as youth, peace and security, good governance, reducing poverty and inequality, water, energy and food security. The Forum also agreed that global partnerships and regional mechanisms are needed to finance sustainable development and facilitate technology transfer and capacity-building.

Convened by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development (OFID), the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development further stresses the actions that those engaged in development cooperation could take to strengthen collaboration for effective development cooperation for sustainable development (SDG 17). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies partnerships as fundamental for the implementation of the SDGs. This is made further explicit in all SDG targets, especially SDG 17, which demands specific means of implementation and a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development. Arab and OECD/DAC countries are thus called to participate in existing coordination groups in developing countries; create where these are lacking, new spaces for collaboration; and share ideas on how to use and align with developing-country results and other frameworks.

At the regional level, Arab sustainable development priorities are expressed through the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development. In the case of North Africa and Sahel-Saharan Arab States, two important documents set out the priorities for the future: The African Union Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position (CAP) on the 2030 Development Agenda.

In the specific case of North Africa and Horn of Africa States, two important documents set out the priorities for the future: Agenda 2063. The Africa We Want and the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These are the most reflective and comprehensive documents on the Africa development agenda, agreed upon by the whole continent. Agenda 2063 was also the result of extensive consultations with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. The seven aspirations for the African continent referred to in Agenda 2063 refer to the need for inclusive and sustainable growth (including social and economic transformation, health, agriculture and education driven by science, technology and innovation), a peaceful and secure Africa (with mechanisms to promote and defend the interests of the continent) and an Africa whose development is people-driven, among others.
These priorities are further specified in the CAP, which notes that despite advances in sustainable development, a number of challenges remain in areas such as education, health and access to basic services.13 Among these priority areas are structural economic transformation (including a particular focus on agriculture), science, technology and innovation; people-centred development (with a focus on education); environmental sustainability; natural resource management and disaster risk management; and peace and security.

Specifically, the CAP commits to the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation; it further reiterates the importance of the development of human resources, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, all of which require strengthening institutional capacity, which includes planning, management and monitoring12 (Lucey and Vazquez, 2016).

In 2016, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States published a report titled Arab Human Development Report 2016. Youth and the Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality. The report examines challenges and opportunities facing youth in the Arab States region, especially since 2011. It seeks to provide an overview of those youth and stimulate a broad dialogue between youth and key stakeholders on the future of development in the region, focusing on the role of youth as critical partners at this point in time.6

Development priorities are usually defined by countries’ development needs. This is particularly evident in the case of the Arab LDCs, which will tend to focus on addressing development challenges in sectors/thematic areas such as poverty, productive capacities, provision of basic services, rehabilitation and recovery, capacity and institutional development. In other countries, these development priorities can also be defined by countries’ aspirations in the international sphere and might go beyond their existing capabilities. For example, many Arab MICs will focus not only on sectors/thematic areas such as economic growth and poverty alleviation (including through cooperation from abroad) but also on offering international cooperation to other developing countries as non-traditional donors.17 While all countries have development experiences to share and from which to learn, some have taken the lead in structuring the environment in which these exchanges take place. Many of these countries, however, still face policy, institutional and operational limitations when promoting these exchanges. These points will be discussed further in the following sections.

Regional economic communities such as the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also play a key role in defining and implementing Arab sustainable development priorities.

While these issues pertain to the African continent as a whole, regional economic communities (RECs) have also specified some priority areas of focus. The African Union recognizes eight RECs: the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Since this report is concerned only with Arab States, it will not consider EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS or SADC (Lucey and Vazquez, 2016).

CEN-SAD aims to enhance political, cultural, economic and social integration.13 Specifically, terrorism, organized crime, security, food self-sufficiency, infrastructure, connectivity and trade are priority areas.14

COMESA, while retaining a focus on economic integration, views the following sectors as particularly important: trade, customs and monetary affairs, transport, communication and information, technology, industry and energy, gender, agriculture, environment and natural resources.15

Source: UNDP Jordan

Source: UNDP Jordan

2 Ibid, p. 20.
7 Interview with Ahmed Hussein (UNOSSC).
Defining Arab States’ development priorities

Art for fighting corruption by UNDP in the Arab States
Source: UNDP (2013)
2. Delivering Arab States development priorities through South-South cooperation (SSC)

These national and regional development priorities can be achieved through numerous instruments, including SSC among Arab States and between Arab States and developing countries in other regions.¹⁸ There have been questions on the location of Arab cooperation in relation to South-South and OECD/DAC models (Waltz and Ramachandran, 2011) at both operational and normative levels. At the operational level, OECD/DAC establishes a firm division between public and private cooperation and only the former is counted towards a country’s “official” development assistance, whereas Arab States often have a more fluid understanding of public and private cooperation, given the complex and decentralized nature of the systems for managing development cooperation in many countries (see table 2). For example, in the United Arab Emirates, over 39 entities, including governmental entities (e.g., ministries, departments and authorities), bilateral and multilateral institutions representing each Emirate or a member of the ruling family (e.g., governmental and semi-governmental foundations and funds), and humanitarian and charitable non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are involved in the design, funding and management of the country’s development cooperation (Vazquez, Mao and Yao, 2016). Religiously affiliated cooperation from governmental sources is also excluded from the OECD/DAC Creditor Report System (CRS). However, a portion of the cooperation provided by NGOs in the Gulf subregion serves a mix of religious and humanitariandevelopment purposes. Ignoring the role of religion in Arab cooperation therefore means neglecting important development flows such as those affiliated with the Islamic practice of zakat.¹⁹

uyên National and regional development priorities can be achieved through numerous instruments, including SSC among Arab States and between Arab States and developing countries in other regions. Yet there have been questions on the location of Arab cooperation in relation to South-South and OECD/DAC models.

¹⁸ United Nations (2012). Note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/17/3, 2012) contains a working definition of “South-South cooperation for development” for the United Nations system. The document complies with decision XI.7 of the high-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and the definition is currently being used by United Nations organizations and agencies. This topic will be discussed further in this report.

¹⁹ Zakat, according to Islam, is a kind of wealth tax, a voluntary contribution by individual Muslims for the welfare of the poor and destitute.

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At the normative level, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) frames “effectiveness” in traditional cooperation according to the principles of ownership, mutual accountability, results, alignment and harmonization mechanisms between donors and recipient countries. These principles were further cemented in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2011 and monitored through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) monitoring framework. SSC in turn implies different forms of partnership based on a set of principles conducive to effective development cooperation (United Nations, 2014). The 2009 Narbon outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation defines five normative principles (national sovereignty and ownership, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefits) and four operational principles (mutual accountability and transparency, coordination, results-based initiatives and multi-stakeholder approach) of SSC. These principles have not been codified, however, nor have benchmarks been agreed upon (Chaturvedi et al., 2014; Vazquez, 2014).
Arab States tend to see SSC as a more cost-effective option compared to traditional cooperation. Through the exchange of expertise, technologies and resources, SSC enables countries to access locally relevant, affordable and adaptable development solutions, build their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development. SSC also plays an important role in localizing the SDGs in the Arab States region. This can be observed through the hosting by the United Arab Emirates of the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2016 and the launch of the post-GSSD Expo first Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have started to voluntarily report their assistance volumes to OECD/DAC. In 2014, the United Arab Emirates became the first participant from the Arab States region in the OECD/DAC and, as such, can take part in all non-confidential meetings of the Committee. Yet these countries engage with OECD/DAC selectively. For instance, the United Arab Emirates will not take part in formal decision-making processes and cannot serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of the OECD/DAC or its subcommittees.22

Arab States have been supporters of South-South cooperation (Tok, 2014; Vazquez et al., 2016). The founding of the League of Arab States (LAS) in 1945, together with the independence processes taking place around that same year, can be regarded as an early example of SSC in the Arab States region (Cabaña, 2014). The main goal of LAS is to strengthen the ties between member States and coordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of Arab States. Through institutions, such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and the Economic and Social Council of the LAS Council of Arab Economic Unity, LAS facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programmes designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. It has served as a forum for the Member States to coordinate their policy positions, to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle Arab disputes and to limit conflicts such as the 1958 Lebanon crisis. LAS has also served as a platform for the drafting and conclusion of many landmark documents such as the Joint Arab Economic Action Charter promoting economic integration. Between 1945 and 1980, Arab States founded several funds and financial institutions that were – or will be – essential funding sources for SSC. This was possible owing to the increase in oil prices, which ensured foreign currency revenue in many countries of the region. This revenue was used for the concession of loans to developing countries – mainly in Africa – through various funds and banks. In 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development became the first support fund for developing countries. In 1973, the first petroleum crisis resulted in the development of new financial mechanisms by oil exporters. Some of those mechanisms are the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1971), the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (1971), the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (1974), the Saudi Fund for Development (1974), the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (1975), and OFID (1976) (Cabaña, 2014). Created in 1980, the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa would later play an important role in building capacities and developing human resources in African countries by dispatching thousands of Egyptian experts and organizing training courses for thousands of Africans.

Historically, Arab States have been supporters of South-South cooperation (Tok, 2014; Vazquez et al., 2016). The founding of the League of Arab States (LAS) in 1945, together with the independence processes taking place around that same year, can be regarded as an early example of SSC in the Arab States region (Cabaña, 2014). The main goal of LAS is to strengthen the ties between member States and coordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of Arab States. Through institutions, such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and the Economic and Social Council of the LAS Council of Arab Economic Unity, LAS facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programmes designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. It has served as a forum for the Member States to coordinate their policy positions, to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle Arab disputes and to limit conflicts such as the 1958 Lebanon crisis. LAS has also served as a platform for the drafting and conclusion of many landmark documents such as the Joint Arab Economic Action Charter promoting economic integration. Between 1945 and 1980, Arab States founded several funds and financial institutions that were – or will be – essential funding sources for SSC. This was possible owing to the increase in oil prices, which ensured foreign currency revenue in many countries of the region. This revenue was used for the concession of loans to developing countries – mainly in Africa – through various funds and banks. In 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development became the first support fund for developing countries. In 1973, the first petroleum crisis resulted in the development of new financial mechanisms by oil exporters. Some of those mechanisms are the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1971), the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (1971), the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries (1974), the Saudi Fund for Development (1974), the Arab Bank for Development in Africa (1975), and OFID (1976) (Cabaña, 2014). Created in 1980, the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa would later play an important role in building capacities and developing human resources in African countries by dispatching thousands of Egyptian experts and organizing training courses for thousands of Africans.

22 Although not included in this report, Qatar also became a participant in OECD/DAC in April 2016.

The years between 1978 and 2000 were tainted by the deterioration and recrudescence of the end of the Cold War, with the subsequent transition from a bipolar international order. During this period, the region was characterized by increasing instability. Conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) and the Gulf war (1990-1991) hit the region and provoked a great rise in oil prices. However, none of these were an obstacle to the introduction of one of the best-known Arab cooperation mechanisms: the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The GCC Charter states that the basic objectives are to have coordination, integration and interconnection between member States in all fields, strengthening ties between their peoples; formulating similar regulations in various fields such as economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation and administration; fostering scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources; establishing scientific research centres; setting up joint ventures; and encouraging cooperation of the private sector. In 1984, the GCC created an embryonic collective defense force: the Saudi-based Peninsula Shield. In the area of economics, the GCC common market came into existence early in 2008.

The first decade of the twenty-first century was a time of economic growth for developed and developing countries, at least until the financial crisis in 2008. While official development assistance (ODA) from OECD/DAC donors had begun to stagnate in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, Arab cooperation was not as harshly affected as initially expected (Rouis, 2011). On the contrary, high-income Gulf countries started to play an even more significant role within the framework of the advocacy for Arab States in SSC as a way to offset the decline in ODA that hampered efforts by many MICs and LDCs towards achieving sustainable development. Cooperation from high-income Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates not only increased but also figured among the highest as a proportion of gross national income compared to OECD/DAC countries during the same period (Vázquez, Mao and Yao, 2016).

Financial support dedicated to infrastructure-related projects also grew during 2008-2010 and efforts to devote more resources to social sectors have ensued (Rouis, 2011). The United Arab Emirates Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (MiCADI) Foreign Aid Report for 2014 shows that the United Arab Emirates disbursed $6.16 billion in support of development and humanitarian and charitable projects in 137 countries and territories. 86.4 per cent of these funds were used for development projects overseas, with the remaining 10.7 per cent and 2.9 per cent going towards humanitarian and charitable activities, respectively. With regard to the humanitarian assistance that the Arab States provide to conflict-affected countries and fragile States, there has been a substantial financial contribution over the past several years; for example, in 2015, Arab States accounted for some 7.4 per cent of global humanitarian aid. More specifically, the Gulf States assistance more than doubled, rising by 120 per cent from US$764 million in 2013 to nearly US$1.7 billion in 2014. Saudi Arabia became one of the 10 major donors for the first time since 2008, rising to become the sixth-largest donor in 2014 from the sixteenth-largest the previous year. Likewise, the United Arab Emirates joined the 20 largest donors, becoming the fifteenth biggest government donor in 2014.
2.1 Overview of SSC in the Arab States

Given the development priorities for Arab States and the evolution of SSC in the region, what is the current situation in terms of SSC? The SDGs as the new framework, even more interconnected than MDGs, require new approaches and collaboration. By simultaneously offering and requesting cooperation, many Arab States are assisting themselves and other regions to stimulate development and emerge on the world stage through cooperation that is radiating to issues of global concern. While economic cooperation remains solidly at the forefront, other forms of cooperation in social sectors are moving forward, with several opportunities for linking the two substantively and operationally (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016).

The total ODA from three countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait) increased significantly as a share of gross national income (GNI), reaching 0.55 per cent during 2008 and 2011, compared to 0.49 per cent in the previous four years. For Saudi Arabia, it was substantially higher than the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent (see graph 3).

The strong heterogeneity of the region is reflected in how Arab SSC is conceived and delivered, the environment in which it takes place, and the quality of information available. Traditionally, more than 80 per cent of Arab SSC has been directed towards other Arab States through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels. Outside the region, Africa and Eastern Europe are the main partners.

According to the mapping, nearly all Arab States have engaged in SSC, benefiting from over 110 bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives since 2005. MICs in the North Africa subregion such as Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt figure among the top destinations of Arab SSC (see graph 5). Outside the region, countries in Africa and Eastern Europe are the main destinations of bilateral Arab SSC.
The mapping further confirms that Arab SSC typically involves MICs and LDCs (63 per cent). ISDB, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and OFID also concentrate their concessional resources on these countries and provide non-concessional export credits to richer countries (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). Only 37 per cent of SSC exchanges within Arab States and between Arab States and other countries in the Global South involve fragile States, according to the mapping. The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is one of the vehicles through which SSC is provided to fragile States, particularly to Sudan and the State of Palestine. The three projects mapped focus on poverty reduction. In the State of Palestine, the IBSA Fund is providing basic health infrastructure in the country, while in Sudan, the Fund is helping to develop labour-intensive infrastructure and link unskilled and semi-skilled youth to longer-term employment and livelihood opportunities.

According to the mapping, regional (28 per cent) and global (14 per cent) SSC initiatives were less frequently observed compared to bilateral SSC (58 per cent) between Arab States and with developing countries outside the region. The main actors in bilateral SSC are the national governments. In regional SSC, CSOs and international organizations in addition to national governments have greater participation. In global SSC initiatives, Governments are the main actors, followed by TrC.

### Arab SSC typically involves MICs and LDCs
Regional and global SSC initiatives are less frequent than SSC between Arab States and developing countries outside the region. National governments are the main actors in bilateral SSC. In regional SSC, civil society organizations and international organizations have greater participation. In global SSC initiatives, Governments are the main actors, followed by TrC.

*Source: e-survey.*

### Arab States participate in SSC initiatives in the following main areas: peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), gender equality (SDG 5), zero hunger (SDG 2), and energy (SDG 7), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

An illustrative example of how Arab States have come together to tackle common challenges is the “Scaling Up of IFAD’s Rural Youth Employment Interventions”, a regional dialogue between Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to work on issues related to decent work and economic growth, with a focus on youth and women empowerment (SDGs 8 and 5). The programme seeks to increase youth employment and self-employment by building the capacity of local institutions to provide youth-inclusive financial and non-financial services to rural youth or the enterprises that employ them. Arab States have also shared their experiences in employment programmes, business incubators, diaspora engagement for economic development, and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development. Recent examples include the Gender Responsive Budgeting Centre of Excellence in Morocco for exchanges with practitioners, researchers and policymakers in countries such as Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania as well as the regional platform for advancing equal opportunities for the economic participation of young women and recent female graduates in Arab States (see annex).
The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation also organizes tailor-made training and advanced courses for Southern professionals in fields such as women’s advancement, adult literacy, vocational training and promotion of SMEs.

Concrete initiatives in the field of poverty reduction (SDG 2) include integrated water resources management and sustainable agricultural practices. Egypt has provided more than 250 short- and long-term experts to some 30 African countries for training and facilitation of knowledge-sharing in a variety of sectors, including water resources (e.g., hydraulic engineering and environmental hydrology for arid and semi-arid regions) and agriculture. The provision by Morocco of expertise and training from the National Office for Electricity and Potable Water was instrumental in assisting in the capacity-building of the national water utility in Mauritania in yet another example of how vital the water sector is to SSC among Arab States (see annex). In agricultural capacity development, Jordan has provided technical expertise in crop production, irrigation, marketing and livestock in Yemen, contributing to increased agricultural production and food security (see annex).

In order to address energy and environment priorities (SDGs 7 and 13), Arab States have participated in exchanges on sustainable energy solutions, energy management information systems and disaster risk reduction. In 2010-2011, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development executed loan agreements with seven Arab States, primarily in the energy sector (see annex). Also in 2011, the Saudi Fund for Development financed power plants in Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic along with dams in Sudan. The United Arab Emirates has been particularly active in the field of renewable and alternative energy and clean technology (see annex). Masdar City, a planned city powered by renewable energy, has become a model of what green urban development can be. Masdar is a subsidiary of the Mubadala Development Company in Abu Dhabi and hosts the World Future Energy Summit, which has provided a platform for sharing knowledge on renewable energy and sustainable cities with developing countries (UNDP, 2014 and annex).

Arab SSC typically involves MICs and LDCs. Regional and local SSC initiatives are less frequent than SSC between Arab States and developing countries outside the region. National governments are the main actors in bilateral SSC. In regional SSC, civil society organizations and international organizations have greater participation. In global SSC initiatives, Governments are the main actors, followed by TrC.

According to the mapping, SSC in Arab States is delivered mainly through training, study tours and other knowledge-sharing initiatives that help to build partners’ capacity to take the leadership of their own development pathways. These instruments are reflected in the roles taken by different public and private organizations to deliver Arab SSC, the main ones being partnership facilitator, technical assistance supplier, knowledge broker and co-finance. Examples of how these instruments are used in practice include school feeding workshops and sharing of experiences between Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt; training courses for Horn Africa countries such as Sudan; and the visit by Tunisian and Moroccan delegations to the World Food Programme Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to learn about Brazil’s school feeding and broader social safety net best practices.

Increasingly Arab SSC is beginning to prioritize more structured capacity-building initiatives through regular funding, long-term relationships, knowledge transfer and other instruments that support long-term impact, beyond the project lifespan. Traditional SSC initiatives – mostly exchange visits and study tours – help partners to improve their institutional learning, yet it is difficult to measure the contribution of these ad hoc, one-off initiatives to sustainable development. Better-structured capacity-building initiatives can further leverage the SSC contribution to sustainable development. Examples in the mapping include internships for doctors in Egyptian hospitals, a community of practice for mine-action directors to exchange experiences, and other forms of internal exchange platforms and networks. A common starting point for more structured initiatives is the use of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) or partnership agreements. These documents define the broader areas of cooperation and set the directions for the joint design of initiatives to address a specific development challenge.

According to the Administrator of UNDP, the “private sector plays an important role as an engine of economic growth and job creation in developing countries. It provides goods and services, generates tax revenues to finance essential social and economic infrastructure, develops and innovative solutions that help tackle development challenges and it is a central actor in addressing climate change.” Thus, the private sector is an important strategic partner for all key development partners including UNDP, greatly helping countries to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion within broader sustainable development.31

Two examples reflect the role of the private sector in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Al Baraka Bank and the Global Islamic Finance and Impact Investing Platform (GIFIIP), which is led by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (ICIPSD).

Al Baraka Bank is one of the first global financial institutions to pledge its targets for supporting the GlobalGoals for Sustainable Development. Accordingly, Al Baraka Bank, with all its subsidiaries, has pledged the following Al Baraka Goals for the next five years (2016-2020): (a) adding 50,000 jobs across the countries where it operates by financing new and existing customer operations; and (b) financing, and donating to, a variety of educational institutions. It is pledging $191 million to support and finance educational initiatives and institutions. Its earmarking of $635 million to invest in SDG-related initiatives in the 18 countries (across the global South) in which it has branches has had an effective impact on investment as a way to channel private-sector funds to development.32

The second example is the Global Islamic Finance and Impact Investing Platform (GIFIIP) launched in May 2016, which represents an example of real partnerships. This platform builds on innovation, entrepreneurship and multi-stakeholder collaboration to maximize the scale and effectiveness of development investments. GIFIIP serves as a knowledge hub for promoting peer learning and experience-sharing, as a forum for policy dialogue and advocacy, and as a marketplace for deal sourcing and matchmaking. Connecting Islamic financiers with impact investors and impact enterprises, the platform drives innovative business solutions to help to address sustainable development challenges in a fair, transparent, quantifiable and verifiable manner.

Public-private partnerships and specialized funds also featured among the main instruments used to deliver Arab SSC. For instance, Egypt provided substantial strategic cooperation through the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa and the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth (merged in 2014 into the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development). The two Egyptian funds have collaborated with Africa and with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) as TrC to provide training courses to medical staff for African countries. The funds have also extended collaboration with Islamic European States and newly independent States (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). In Sudan, China and Arab Funds are the major contributors of loans to the country. In 1970, an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed between Sudan and China within the framework of bilateral cooperation. Under this agreement, China provided a number of loans to the Government of Sudan totalling $7.5 billion by April 2012, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016).

2.2 Challenges to Arab SSC

The potential for SSC in Arab States remains largely untapped, however. Most of the Arab MICs and LDCs are facing fiscal and external deficits, and many are suffering from protracted conflict and political instability. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic and the violence in Iraq and Libya and more recently in Yemen, and the implications of ISIS risk expanding to neighbouring countries, thus compromising medium-term development. These economic and political complexities hinder the consolidation of SSC and the degree of assimilation of the concept by decision makers in Arab States (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). A low level of awareness can undermine the reach of SSC and related tools. While some countries have begun to structure funds and other mechanisms to deliver SSC, the overall policy and institutional environment in the region is still nascent. If knowledge about institutional arrangements and funding modalities for SSC remains low, the use of these instruments will remain at a low level.

Policy, institutional and operational challenges must be tackled before Arab SSC can reach its full potential.

According to the mapping, other challenges to Arab SSC include lack of or inadequate access to financial resources; a short-term focus and poor alignment of SSC initiatives with the local reality; a non-inclusive approach; and insufficient political support (see table 3).

National and regional development strategies rarely include or emphasize SSC as a tool and approach for achieving development priorities, and the respective policy frameworks and coordination mechanisms do not exist in most Arab countries. Countries of the region participate in various regional groupings concurrently, which sometimes have similar or overlapping objectives and areas of cooperation. More effective interaction and allocation of funds could be achieved through avoiding duplication of efforts and introducing mechanisms for synergy with other regional organizations. In addition, SSC initiatives are often implemented by different ministries and agencies, with engagement of other development stakeholders, making information collection and coordination a challenge. These countries also tend to provide fragmented information on their contributions to South-South cooperation, making it difficult to compute aggregate statistical information on South-South cooperation.

While Arab HiCs face mainly policy challenges related to aligning SSC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, MIC and LDC challenges relate primarily to institutional and operational issues such as funding and coordination. Fragile States also struggle with limited capacity to translate development needs into sound SSC initiatives, thus affecting their capacity to request expertise from other countries.

These challenges can be mapped across country typologies and are a reflection of the environment in which Arab SSC takes place or the “model” groups. While HiCs in the Gulf region face mainly policy challenges related to aligning SSC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, MIC and LDC challenges relate primarily to institutional and operational issues such as funding and coordination. Fragile States also struggle with limited capacity to translate development needs into sound SSC initiatives, thus affecting their own capacity to seek expertise from other countries. These challenges as well as some of the innovative responses taken by Arab States will be discussed further in section 2.3 and in light of the models of Arab SSC.
2.3 Models of Arab SSC

The strong heterogeneity among Arab States is reflected in how Arab SSC is conceived and delivered, yet common patterns can be observed across countries in the same subregion and/or with similar income levels. These common patterns can also be found in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation. These models further point to directions for more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of Arab SSC, enabling countries to address their national development challenges.

In this report, the models of Arab SSC are defined by six dimensions (nature, form of engagement, institutionalization, modality, thematic focus and funding source) and two levels (national and regional). There is another categorization that includes non-OECD/DAC members and refers to high-income Gulf countries that voluntarily report to the OECD/DAC while also taking an SSC approach. “Form of engagement” is defined as how a country engages in an SSC initiative: offering/seeking SSC or both (e.g., public goods, regional integration and any other SSC initiatives focused on collective action). At the regional level, the regional organizations can play the role of facilitator in TrC arrangements. “Institutionalization” refers to the management systems in place or the domestic policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and operational tools for development cooperation (e.g., financial, information and knowledge platforms). “Modality” refers to how development cooperation is delivered. The “thematic focus” of Arab SSC is defined by two areas: infrastructure and social (capacity development). Finally, “main funding source” can be defined as oil revenues, national budgets, TrC (including two or more Southern countries plus OECD/DAC countries or multilateral organizations), and special “funds” (mainly from HICs in the Gulf and BRICS countries).

The models of Arab South-South cooperation are not meant to be strict classifications but have been developed to help to identify specific lessons learned or enabling factors for SSC. Moreover, while reflecting the prevailing political and regional drivers of cooperation that vary across different parts of the region, the models are not established on the basis of rigid categories by countries and organizations mentioned to illustrate them. Neither is the choice of names for the models in any way a reflection of the views of UNOSSC or UNDP with regard to any regional organizations, unions or grouping.

Table 3. Main challenges to Arab SSC (in order of priority according to the mapping)33

1. Short-term focus
2. Poor resource mobilization and predictability
3. Poor alignment with development priorities, sector strategies and plans
4. Non-inclusive approach
5. Insufficient political support
6. Poor resource allocation and expenditure
7. Planning and coordination do not consider the local context
8. Inadequate policy/legal/regulatory frameworks
9. Poor communication/poor knowledge management/lack of awareness
10. Institutional setup

2.3.1 National models of Arab SSC

Four models of Arab SSC can be observed at the national level.

2.3.1.1 Gulf Cooperation Council model

This model is comprised of HICs in the Gulf subregion and represents both a distinct break from traditional OECD/DAC aid models and an attempt to remedy the shortcomings of the latter. All of the countries in this model group have not been equally active in development cooperation nor have their contributions converged into an entirely uniform strategy. Differences in internal and external policies, structures and practices of the various large-scale, Government-run development funds in the subregion showcase continuing difficulties in formulating a homogenous approach to involvement in development cooperation. Some aspects and practices follow methodologies similar to those of OECD/DAC donors, including macro-level efforts to build a unified Gulf Development Fund (Tok, 2015), yet strong support for the non-imposition of human rights and other political conditionality to assistance that characterize the countries in the GCC model group resemble the approach of some BRICS countries while indirectly protecting the state of affairs in many Gulf States (Tok, 2015). The BRICS informal grouping was established in the aftermath of aggravation of the economic and financial crisis in 2007-2008 as an international power intended to influence through its economic and political clout along with other prominent players in the world. The BRICS counties also aim to foster growth and financial stability to address unemployment as one of the critical issues of the global economic situation. BRICS have increased their financial as well as technical assistance and established distinct ways and means of economic cooperation, especially through South-South Cooperation with low-income countries. BRICS are striving for more political influence, thereby challenging traditional Western donors such as the European Union.
Also similar to some BRICS countries, the principle of mutual benefit underpins the inclusion of export support in the cooperation portfolios of countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, shifts towards needs-based spending, knowledge exchange and regional diversification suggest that the cooperation of these countries may also prioritize the development aspects of cooperation and South-South solidarity. Countries in the GCC model group also make extensive use of modalities such as technical cooperation projects, material goods, concessional loans and infrastructure improvement, with a general push for soft-power enhancement through capacity development. Humanitarian assistance is also central to the model. Qatar provides a very substantial share of its development cooperation assistance (about 40 percent) in response to humanitarian crisis; the top 10 developing countries supported by Qatar during the 3-year period from 2010 to 2012 were: Syria ($194.08 million), Sudan ($147.32 million), Tunisia ($145.28 million), State of Palestine ($136.31 million), Libya ($109.04 million), Lebanon ($83.78 million), Comoros ($37.98 million), Ethiopia ($20.79 million), Haiti ($20.05 million), and Djibouti ($13.24 million).

In Sudan, namely the region of Darfur, the State of Qatar, through its Fund for Development, contributed $88.5 million that were channelled through the UN Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund (UNDF) to support implementation of 12 Foundational and Short Term (FaST) projects by 13 UN agencies and organisations in the 5 Darfur States. In addition to $177.4 million for the FaST projects within the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS). The State of Qatar also supported the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in organizing the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) workshops as a fulfilment of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

Drawing from the recently released foreign assistance reports published by the Government of Qatar in 2015, Qatar’s assistance is about the same as New Zealand’s or Portugal’s, and somewhat smaller than Ireland’s. In 2010-2012, Qatar’s foreign assistance constituted about 0.30 percent of GNI per annum that is slightly higher than the weighted average for all DAC donors (0.29 percent in 2012).

In the past five years, the United Arab Emirates has allocated $708 million to assisting the world’s refugees and stands as the only non-DAC country to have joined the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Donor Support Group (Tok, 2015).

The thematic priorities that drive countries in the Khaleeji model also tend to differ from those of OECD/DAC donors and converge with the priorities of BRICS countries. Cooperation oriented more heavily towards infrastructure projects in sectors such as transportation, energy and water (Tok, 2015), there is a real opportunity for countries in this model group to align cooperation in infrastructure development with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
of the keenness of the United Arab Emirates to support government efforts aimed at the empowerment of young people and the promotion of social, economic and political stability in Yemen.35 Saudi Arabia has been the largest partner delivering financial support to development cooperation in the world since 1973 as per the ratio of its development cooperation to the national income. In Saudi Arabia, cooperation is provided bilaterally (95 per cent), mainly in the form of loans (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). The Saudi Fund for Development has been channeling this bilateral cooperation predominantly through grants and soft loans. Loans support not only hard infrastructure development (e.g., road and dam construction, construction or rehabilitation of hospitals and health clinics, and the expansion of water and sanitation services) but also soft infrastructure efforts such as work in education, housing and urban development. Similarly, the United Arab Emirates has recently pledged $4 billion to “supporting Egypt and its people to consolidate the drive of building and development as well as in appreciation for its pivotal role among Arab States.”36

Nevertheless, the GCC model still relies heavily on oil revenues, raising doubts about the sustainability of the model. Different authors highlight the close relationship between total cooperation amounts from these countries and total revenue earned from resource extraction (Cotterrell and Harmer, 2005; Tok, 2015) with episodes in which oil prices rose without a respective increase in Gulf development cooperation, while in other instances, budgets for development cooperation rose despite record commodity price lows. The result of falling prices may be a move from delivering cooperation in the form of hard and soft loans to political and technical support or other resource-light measures. However, the increase in these measures may simply be an additional element of the cooperation provided by Gulf States.

The volatility of volumes of cooperation remains very much a reality, however, and is particularly problematic when juxtaposed with Gulf countries’ purported preferences for longer-term support to cooperation. Employing a long-term focus is challenging when fluctuating oil-revenue cycles dictate cooperation provisions (Tok, 2015).

2.3.1.2 Middle East and North Africa model

The Middle East and North Africa model is comprised mainly of MICs and LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa subregions;37 presenting many similar features in terms of nature, forms of engagement and thematic focus but also differences with regard to levels of institutionalization, modalities used and funding sources. Overall, the countries in the Middle East and North Africa model are forming their domestic policy frameworks, institutional arrangements and operational tools for development cooperation (e.g., financial, information and knowledge platforms). Institutionalization has progressed more rapidly among Arab MICs, such as Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Actions vary, including the establishment of development agencies such as the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development, other entities responsible for coordinating SSC, policies and specialized funds. African Union RECs are central to the SSC of both MICs and LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa model, yet RECs continue to lack capacity to operate and suffer from a number of challenges including overlapping memberships, limited financing, uneven commitments and slow implementation. Capacity needs include staffing, the mobilization of resources, the coordination of activities, the conduct of research, the sharing of knowledge, and the monitoring and evaluation of projects, programmes and plans.38

In the absence of a central “matchmaking” platform, countries in this model group tend to use a range of tools to offer and request knowledge and expertise from their peers, often leading to ad hoc, uncoordinated efforts. Morocco, along with partners outside the Arab region such as Mauritania, Gabon and Senegal, have established partnership agreements to foster more structured experience and expert exchanges, mainly on decentralization and local development, through knowledge networks. A new South-South knowledge network already benefiting countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America is to be found at the Gender Responsive Budgeting Centre of Excellence, which offers sharing of experiences and communities of practice to support gender-sensitive public finance management and assessment of policies (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). Lastly, while very few countries in this model group appear to have an overall national policy on SSC, Tunisia has developed policy and institutional frameworks to guide SSC efforts to ensure a clearer mandate for SSC activities within the Government and to make sure that efforts complement one another (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016).

The relatively nascent institutionalization of SSC in MICs and LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa subregions also plays an important role in countries’ ability to fund and deliver SSC. Therefore, countries in this model group have turned to TrC arrangements with an OECD/DAC donor or multilateral agency (e.g., UNDP, IsDB) to overcome institutional and funding shortcomings. For example, despite the political and economic uncertainties affecting many MICs in the Middle East and North Africa subregions, Egypt continued to provide substantial strategic cooperation through the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation (part of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development since 2014) and the Social Fund for Development. The country has been able to mobilize new resources to complement national resources and secure relative predictability for SSC funding through the establishment of triangular partnerships with the former Canadian International Development Agency (folded into the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2013 and renamed the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development) and Belgium, mainly in the areas of information, technology and health. Partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have also supported Egypt in providing humanitarian assistance in Africa (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). More recently, “South-South cooperation” initiatives have also been taking place between the countries in this model group and MICs in the Gulf subregion as well as BRICS countries (e.g., the IBSA Fund) in LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa model. National budgets, mainly in the case of MICs in the Middle East and North Africa model, are also used to fund SSC, although with limitations such as lack of regularity and predictability.

The focus of Southern support on the infrastructure and production sectors is taking place at a time when the share of these sectors in OECD/DAC aid is declining. However, to date, the emphasis has been on national rather than regional infrastructure. MICs and LDCs in this model group could encourage other Southern partners to extend the scope of their infrastructure finance to the regional level as an important channel to reduce transactions costs, link national markets and boost intra-regional trade and investment. One example among Arab LDCs that used SSC for greater regional integration is Sudan. In recent years, SSC has expanded in Sudan in response to the sanctions, embargoes and unilateral coercive measures imposed by traditional donors. Through SSC, Sudan built roads connecting with neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic. In 2013, the United Nations and the Ministry of Finance of Sudan conducted Government-wide consultations on the country’s potential growing leadership in SSC. The consultation highlighted how Sudan could take SSC to the next level by strengthening relevant national capacities, including institutions, policies and coordination mechanisms. As a result, the country has established a national coordination authority for SSC to develop a national strategy for SSC and increase overall awareness and political support. Good practices were also identified at the bilateral and regional levels, including through triangular partnerships with United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and FAO (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016).

2.3.1.3 Fragile States model

This model is comprised mainly of conflict- and post-conflict-affected countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Horn of Africa subregions. Countries in this model group have been participating in SSC mainly by requesting cooperation and still lack domestic capacities and institutions for articulating and assessing needs, developing specific programmes and projects, and managing the development cooperation contributed. Other impediments include limited information at the stage of needs matching and a need for wider participation of partner countries in programme and project development. This imposes constraints on the use of demand-driven approaches in SSC. One way to engage with these countries under the SSC framework has been through special funds from other countries of the South. Created in 2004, the IBSA Fund has established itself as an important SSC mechanism for supporting sustainable and replicable projects. Based on capabilities available in the IBSA countries and on successful Southern experiences, the Fund responds to requests primarily from fragile States and LDCs. The IBSA Fund operates through a demand-driven approach. Governments requesting support by the IBSA Fund initiate discussions with focal points appointed among IBSA country officers around the world. These focal points submit proposals to the IBSA Board of Directors for review. If a proposal receives a favourable review, UNOSSC, which acts as the fund manager and secretariat of the Board of Directors, initiates contact with a potential executing agency to advance the formulation of a project and to facilitate its implementation. IBSA projects are executed through partnerships with UNDP, other United Nations agencies, national institutions or local governments. Important concerns of IBSA partners in the design of their projects include capacity-building among project beneficiaries, building in project sustainability and knowledge-sharing among Southern experts and institutions. IBSA projects are formulated following the IBSA guidelines as well as United Nations and UNDP standards. They also incorporate South-South cooperation concerns and government and IBSA partner priorities as well as the requirements and capacity of their executing agency. The IBSA Board of Directors and experts are periodically briefed about the progress of projects and receive quarterly reports from the executing agencies of the projects.

In the State of Palestine, the IBSA Fund has supported the construction of a multi-purpose sports centre, the rehabilitation of the Hospital and Cultural Centre of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Al Quds Hospital) in the Gaza Strip, the construction of a centre for people with disabilities in the city of Nablus, and the rebuilding of the Atta Habib hospital in the Gaza Strip. In Sudan, the IBSA Fund has been supporting the generation of sustainable long-term productive employment opportunities, creating synergies between the different activities and enhancing the impact of their interventions through extensive participation of the various government bodies, labour unions and the private sector.
Intraregional learning is another avenue for engaging fragile States in SSC. These countries can learn, for instance, from the journey taken by the South American countries in realizing sustainable peace and development. Already a South-South platform for knowledge exchange that is led by Colombia exists and shares experiences and capacities on peacebuilding for conflict-affected States. Iraq and Sudan have been involved in the activities of this platform and shared knowledge on peacebuilding and development.43

Countries in this model group would further benefit from a more coherent SSC policy framework, clearly defined mandates and SSC focal points. In order to enable this cooperation, it would be equally important that foreign experts obtain the necessary permits to enter and exit the country. Advocacy is also needed to ensure that many nationalities across the region including Palestinian experts can enter other countries (UNOSSC/UNDP, 2016). Some innovative responses to the limited domestic capacities and institutions come from the State of Palestine. The country established the Aid Management and Coordination Unit within the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development to coordinate aid- and development-related initiatives.

Table 4 provides an overview of the main dimensions of the four national models of Arab SSC.

Table 4. Main national models of Arab SSC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Form of engagement</th>
<th>Institutionalization</th>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>Thematic focus</th>
<th>Funding source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa model (MICs)</td>
<td>OECD/DAC and non-OECD/DAC</td>
<td>Offering and requesting SSC</td>
<td>Nascent institutionalization</td>
<td>Technical cooperation (when offering SSC); Technical cooperation, goods and services, general programme support; technical cooperation, goods and services, general programme support</td>
<td>Infrastructure and social development (capacity development)</td>
<td>Oil revenues (volatile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa model (LDCs)</td>
<td>OECD/DAC and non-OECD/DAC</td>
<td>Offering and requesting SSC</td>
<td>Nascent institutionalization</td>
<td>Technical cooperation, goods and services, general programme support; technical cooperation, goods and services, general programme support</td>
<td>Infrastructure and social development (capacity development)</td>
<td>Technical cooperation (when offering SSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragile States</td>
<td>OECD/DAC and non-OECD/DAC</td>
<td>Participating in SSC</td>
<td>Low level of institutionalization</td>
<td>Budget support</td>
<td>Infrastructure and social development (capacity development)</td>
<td>Technical cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Cooperation Council model (GCC)</td>
<td>OECD/DAC and non-OECD/DAC</td>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>Fairly institutionalized</td>
<td>Goods and services, general programme assistance, infrastructure development, humanitarian assistance (usually delivered through national funds)</td>
<td>Infrastructure and social development (capacity development)</td>
<td>Barkis countries, United Nations agencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 provides an overview of the main dimensions of the four national models of Arab SSC.

### 2.3.2 Regional models of Arab SSC

At the regional level, three models of Arab SSC were identified.

#### 2.3.2.1 IsDB reverse linkage

The experience gained in the implementation of technical cooperation and technical assistance projects and programmes has provided an avenue for IsDB to scale up successful stories and best practices through the introduction of the reverse linkage cooperation model in 2010. The reverse linkage model has been placed within the broader spectrum of SSC mechanisms that IsDB adopts. It is defined as a South-South cooperation mechanism enabled by IsDB whereby IsDB member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries exchange their expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development.

The principles of SSC are integrated into the principles of reverse linkage. First, reverse linkage is based on the understanding that irrespective of the development status, all countries have expertise in one or more areas that can be tapped into by the others. Second, reverse linkage values the respect for national sovereignty and ownership. Third, reverse linkage is free of any conditionalities. IsDB facilitates these exchanges by providing concessional loans, grants and other forms of financing; matching development needs and specific knowledge gaps; mediating the interests of partner countries; developing relationships and networks with, among and between producers and users of knowledge; and reusing the accumulated institutional
learning in new initiatives facilitated by the Bank. An example of a reverse linkage includes the project between Burkina Faso and Morocco on water quality treatment. Water resources are scarce in Burkina Faso, and water availability varies greatly between regions and seasons. The issue is further aggravated by water eutrophication (algae proliferation) in the dam and the limited know-how of the National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA) to control water quality in its plants. Burkina Faso expressed the need for capacity development for ONEA to ISDB. Meanwhile, Morocco was able to address water eutrophication in its dams through the use of a biological and cost-effective solution of silver cap. As an outcome of the Member Country Partnership Strategy-Morocco, agreement was reached to capitalize on the development experience of Morocco to give support to another ISDB member country, especially among sub-Saharan African countries, and to collaborate for that purpose with the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation as a national coordinator in Morocco. The Moroccan National Office for Electricity and Potable Water (ONEE) was identified as the contributor of expertise under the reverse linkage pillar of the Member Country Partnership Strategy-Morocco. A series of scoping missions and diagnosis ensued, leading to a joint work plan to improve the quality of water in Burkina Faso by protecting water resources against eutrophication, optimizing the process in the water treatment, and strengthening ONEA Central Lab quality-control capacity. ONEE provided expertise and know-how in water-quality treatment; ONEA contributed to the project financially in addition to its in-kind support through the facilitation of the logistical arrangements in the country, and ISDB facilitated the smooth implementation of the project by providing, among other things, financial support.

2.3.2.2 Knowledge platforms and centres of excellence

Other emerging models in the region include solution exchange platforms and centres of excellence that make extensive use of information technology for knowledge-sharing and partnerships with the private sector (Vazquez, 2014). The South-South Youth Exchange mechanism, for instance, is based on a process of identifying thematic priorities for empowering Saudi youth and relevant exchange countries for given topics, identifying female and male youth from regions of the country, developing a rigorous agenda for exchange visits, and undertaking evaluation and follow-up to capture lessons learned and ways to integrate such lessons into local youth empowerment activities in Saudi Arabia. A Project Board oversees the exchange while various Government and private-sector partners provide guidance, quality assurance and funding. It is also serving as a base for further South-South cooperation potential on specific topics of bilateral interest among countries. This model innovates as it applies information technology for knowledge-sharing and partnerships with the private sector.

The Moroccan Gender-responsive Budgeting (GRB) Centre of Excellence was launched in November 2012 during an international high-level conference on GRB in Morocco. More than 30 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America participated in the exchange. During 2012, an electronic platform for the Centre of Excellence was elaborated. The e-platform consists of a system for GRB knowledge management that enables setting up different communities of practice made up of members wanting to share, innovate and learn together. A workshop on GRB for officials representing ministries of finance, sectoral departments and statistics institutions from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania was organized before the official launch of the Centre to test the new mechanism. More than 20 webinars on topics such as accountability tools for gender equality and GRB approaches and budgetary programming/democratic space for GRB as well as 17 country profiles of expertise under the reverse linkage pillar of the Member Country Partnership Strategy-Morocco was identified as the contributor of expertise under the reverse linkage pillar of the Member Country Partnership Strategy-Morocco. A series of scoping missions and diagnosis ensued, leading to a joint work plan to improve the quality of water in Burkina Faso by protecting water resources against eutrophication, optimizing the process in the water treatment, and strengthening ONEA Central Lab quality-control capacity. ONEE provided expertise and know-how in water-quality treatment; ONEA contributed to the project financially in addition to its in-kind support through the facilitation of the logistical arrangements in the country, and ISDB facilitated the smooth implementation of the project by providing, among other things, financial support.

Another notable example is the “South-South Global Thinkers: The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation” initiative that was established jointly by UNDP and UNOSSC. This initiative addresses the knowledge gap and uneven access to solutions and resources hindering the progress and the full realization of the SSC potential and its impact on sustainable development. It aims to provide an enabling environment for think tank networks from the South across all regions to produce and share relevant knowledge for sustainable development and scale up the impact of SSC and Tc in the implementation of the SDGs. The initiative will also help in the systematization, collection, analysis and dissemination of better data and knowledge about patterns, trends, flows, composition and impact of SSC and Tc. The research, knowledge and policy advocacy generated from the project will feed into global policy dialogues on SSC, including the upcoming 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40). To date, UNDP and UNOSSC have formalized partnerships with six think tank networks across all regions. The Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) network, a notable network in the Arab States region, will work on developing knowledge in the area of SSC risk management in fragile contexts and in analyzing regional/subregional mechanisms and neighborhood SSC initiatives. This area of research will identify trends, strategies and modalities as well as good practices, policy tools and institutional mechanisms that enable the upgrading of SSC among neighboring countries, including on various development issues such as trade, infrastructure, water management and migration.

The main aspects of the regional models of Arab SSC are presented in Table 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Reverse linkage</th>
<th>Knowledge platforms</th>
<th>Centre of excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>SSC (mainly Tc)</td>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>Tc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of engagement</td>
<td>Facilitator (IsDB)</td>
<td>Knowledge broker</td>
<td>Knowledge broker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutionalization</td>
<td>Early institutionalized</td>
<td>Early institutionalization</td>
<td>Early institutionalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main modality</td>
<td>Technical cooperation and loans</td>
<td>Knowledge exchange</td>
<td>Knowledge exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic focus</td>
<td>Infrastructure and social development</td>
<td>Capacity development</td>
<td>Capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New issues</td>
<td>Pooled (international organization, supplier partner country, private sector, etc.)</td>
<td>Pooled (international organization, supplier partner country, private sector, etc.)</td>
<td>Pooled (international organization, supplier partner country, private sector, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catalysing SSC in the Arab region
3. Catalysing SSC in the Arab States region

Enhancing Arab SSC as a complementary tool for countries to achieve greater sustainable development involves action not only by Governments (mainly the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning, which are typically in charge of development cooperation, and line ministries, which are in charge of the transfer of experiences and implementation of Arab SSC) and regional organizations and funds but also academia, civil society and the private sector. The United Nations system can further support this process through its agencies, funds and programmes in the Arab States region.

3.1 Advancing Arab SSC at the national and regional levels

Arab States have made broad and significant advances in addressing many of the policy, institutional and operational challenges to SSC. Models of SSC start to emerge throughout the region, pointing to directions for more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of SSC as well as enabling Arab States to address their national development challenges. Looking ahead, Arab States could consider the following actions to further enhance SSC for sustainable development.

3.1.1 Map development challenges against learning opportunities within and outside the region

The cross-disciplinary, holistic and integrated nature of the SDGs will require innovative approaches and partnerships. Knowledge in all its forms has become an increasingly important ingredient of policymaking and will be called upon more and more to provide solutions to issues affecting sustainable development. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling some of these challenges can serve as useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development. In this context:

- Identify areas in which countries have made significant progress and have lessons to share;
- Map these areas against the different sustainable development goals, based on their (potential) contribution to sustainable development;
- Map the national institutions that have developed and implemented these experiences;
- Assess the installed capacity of national institutions and their readiness to share these experiences;
- Systematize development experiences in consultation with CSOs, academia and other relevant national actors;
- Map national and regional development priorities, identify relevant experiences from other countries and articulate them in the form of requests for SSC;
- Document systematically the lessons learned from SSC to incorporate them into future projects and ensure a feedback mechanism. This might be done in partnership with academia and think tanks.

3.1.2 Strengthen policy, institutional and operational structures for advancing Arab SSC

Revamped relations among different actors during the policy process can enable knowledge exchange and co-creation and further enrich decision-making. As in other regions characterized by weak institutions, however, knowledge needs to be enhanced for policy- and decision-making in Arab States. While all countries have development experiences to share and from which to learn, Arab States need to further strengthen SSC as a concept and the enabling environment in which it takes place.

At the policy level:

- Expand ongoing efforts to develop a broadly accepted definition of SSC at the national and regional levels, how SSC principles concretely apply in the Arab States region, the financial and delivery modalities used, and the frameworks for measuring SSC financial and knowledge flows;
- Mainstream SSC into national government and regional institutions and groupings such as LAS, GCC and RECs, based on the experience of countries and international organizations that have already taken steps in this direction;
- Design national policies and institutional frameworks to guide SSC efforts and ensure integration and complementarity of SSC activities across the Government;
- Provide regular reports of SSC financial and knowledge flows as well as the results achieved for enhanced visibility, transparency and accountability;
- Secure regular funding for SSC cooperation mainly in countries affected by oil-price volatility.

At the institutional level:

- Map existing commitments by countries, the mechanisms through which this funding will be disbursed, how organizations can access these mechanisms, and potential barriers to assess, disburse and execute this funding;
- Improve the availability of and access to financial resources for SSC, including through public-private partnerships and specialized funds (mainly in crisis- and post-conflict-affected countries);
- Enhance coordination among funding providers and create institutional and regulatory frameworks;
- Address the capacity needs of RECs and national institutions for engaging in SSC, including staffing numbers, resource mobilization, coordination of activities, knowledge-sharing, and the monitoring and evaluation of projects, programmes and plans.

3.1.3 Bridge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in SSC

While economic cooperation remains solidly at the forefront of Arab SSC, other forms of cooperation, mainly in social sectors, are advancing, bringing opportunities for linking the two substantively and operationally. In this context:

- Advocate for the integration of Arab SSC with national and regional strategies for the implementation of the SDGs at policy forums such as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the ESCWA Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development;
- Extend the scope of infrastructure finance to the regional level to reduce transaction costs, link narrow markets, and boost intra-regional trade and investment;
3.2 What role for the United Nations?

According to the United Nations High-level Committee on SSC, “the primary constraints on the effective application of South-South cooperation by the United Nations system are inadequate dedicated human and financial resources coupled with a limited capacity to leverage the global presence of the United Nations development system through the effective mapping, dissemination and application of proven development solutions.” Enhanced United Nations support to SSC must consider using information and communications technology (ICT) to formulate strategies and policies. UNOSSC, UNDP and other United Nations funds and programmes operating in the Arab States region could consider the following actions to enhance their support to SSC in the region. These actions will vary depending on the focus and nature of the concerned organization.

In it is efforts at strengthening and scaling up SSC, UNDP developed its first Corporate Strategy on SSC and TrC, which recognizes the importance of universal access to knowledge as a development multiplier for accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. As the current environment stands, the availability of information and the quality of research on the scale and impact of SSC and TrC have not kept pace with the growing demand among Southern partners for peer learning to further improve results.

Through the strategy, UNDP introduced two global initiatives, the SSMart for SDGs and the South-South Global Thinkers initiatives, which aim at addressing the knowledge gaps and the uneven access to solutions that are hindering the scaling up of SSC and TrC.

### 3.2.1 Facilitate Arab SSC in priority areas for the region

- Raise awareness about SSC as an instrument for achieving greater sustainable development among government departments, CSOs and businesses, for instance through the creation of an “SSC marker” to identify SSC projects and activities supported by the United Nations, promote SSC principles and create oversight mechanisms for building trust and to secure horizontal relations;
- Encourage further links with the implementation of the SDGs domestically and regionally, for instance through discussions on Arab SSC in annual meetings, thematic dialogues and other events;
- Regularly assess the state of Arab SSC and its support to the implementation of the SDGs, review progress, identify areas for enhanced support and propose recommendations;
- Conduct in-depth analyses of each model of Arab SSC (geographic focus, actors and sectoral priorities), assess whether these models are specific in any way to Arab States (or if there are other models in other regions that Arab States are not using), identify centres of excellence in the Arab States region and engage these centres of excellence in SSC initiatives and networks;
- Facilitate TrC arrangements with other developing countries within and outside the region through “South-South-South cooperation” arrangements, in addition to OECD/DAC and multilateral agencies;
- Support foreign experts in obtaining the necessary permits to enter and exit countries to participate in South-South knowledge exchanges.

Table 6 summarizes steps to advance Arab SSC at the national and regional levels.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6. Advancing Arab SSC at the national and regional levels</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Map development challenges against learning opportunities within and outside the region.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Assess national institutions’ installed capacity and readiness to share development solutions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Systematize development solutions in consultation with CSOs, academia and other relevant actors;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Map national and regional development priorities, identify relevant experiences and articulate them as requests for SSC;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Document lessons learned from SSC to incorporate them into future projects and ensure a feedback mechanism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Strengthen policy, institutional and operational structures for advancing Arab SSC.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Design national policies and institutional frameworks to ensure integration and complementarity of SSC across the Government;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Provide regular reports of SSC financial and knowledge flows;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Secure regular funding for SSC cooperation mainly in countries affected by oil-price volatility;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Enhance coordination among fund providers and create institutional and regulatory frameworks;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Address REC and national-institution capacity needs for engaging in SSC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Bridge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in SSC.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Advocate for the integration of Arab SSC with national and regional strategies for the implementation of the SDGs;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Extend the scope of infrastructure finance to the regional level to reduce transaction costs, link national markets and boost intraregional trade and Investment;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Combine two or more SSC modalities in supporting infrastructure projects and soft-power enhancement through capacity development at the human, institutional and systemic levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.2 Scale up national efforts

In order to enhance support to Arab SSC for sustainable development, the United Nations needs first to embrace Arab States development priorities and support countries in building policy, institutional and operational capacities for SSC.

At the policy level:
- Support the mapping of existing commitments, the mechanisms through which funding is disbursed, how organizations can access this funding, and potential barriers to assess, disburse and execute this funding;
- Map existing national and regional funds (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, OFID, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Social Fund for Development, the IBSA Fund, etc.), the types of SSC activities sourced, and any national/regional gaps considering countries’ typologies (e.g., geographic and income).

At the institutional level:
- Promote more structured SSC engagements, including through MOUs and partnership agreements between national governments and counterparts;
- Assist Arab States and regional organizations in developing policies and frameworks for SSC;
- Support the development of specialized units to coordinate cooperation- and development-related initiatives within Arab States and regional organizations.

At the operational level:
- Map knowledge platforms and centres of excellence by area of development;
- Elaborate common methodological approaches, indicators and data collection mechanisms;
- Assist in assessing South-South partnership opportunities and evaluating SSC institutional mechanisms, their performance, and the impact of SSC on the country’s overall development agenda (i.e., exploring how/when/where study tours have been used to good effect; new/emerging forms of SSC beyond study tours, knowledge exchanges, etc.);
- Map national capacities for monitoring and evaluation, assess capacity gaps, and provide training to enhance national efforts.

3.2.3 Create knowledge-sharing infrastructure for sustainable development

In the absence of a central “matchmaking” platform, Arab States tend to use a range of tools to offer and request knowledge and expertise from their peers.

The United Nations can catalyze these national experiences by incentivizing the creation and institutionalization of knowledge platforms and networks and integrating them into macro structures at the regional and global levels.

UNDP recently launched a global development solutions exchange platform, SSMart for SDGs, which provides an enabling environment for partners (state and non-state actors) to publicize their requests, share their solutions and connect with one another to foster SSC and T&C opportunities.

Upon request, end-to-end services will be available to the partners to broker partnerships and make the process fully operational and effective.

Such services include support in assessing demand, defining a problem, packaging a solution, matching a solution seeker to a solution provider, advising on monitoring and evaluation approaches and operational modalities, connecting with financing mechanisms, supporting implementation and conducting impact assessments as needed.

The development of the system was based on consultations with Member States and UNDP partners.

The solution exchange system aims to help to bridge the knowledge gaps and uneven access to solutions by systematizing and scaling up SSC based on the understanding that all countries have something to learn from and share with one another.

The SSMart for SDGs will enable all partners to benefit from an open and vibrant virtual marketplace for broadened opportunities for SSC by:
- boosting cooperation on issues connected to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs that are of the greatest potential and demand across the South;
- complementing rather than substituting existing national, regional or global arrangements;
- filling a need for a platform that is open and easy to access, navigate and use, with built-in safeguards and a capacity for implementation of cooperation agreements or partnerships almost anywhere at any time; and
- taking a fundamentally different approach to existing cooperation platforms by offering access to end-to-end services - whether online or offline - that can help to get things done and bring partnerships to fruition on the ground.

This system is open to all partners including United Nations organizations.

- UNOSSC, with the support of UNDP, produced a publication titled Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development. The compilation contains information on 61 SSC solutions addressing challenges posed by all 17 SDGs. Over 30 agencies and partner institutions were mobilized to identify and document their good practices; there were several good practices featured from the Arab States. The United Nations should produce a regional good practices compilation for the Arab States region:
  - in collaboration with Governments and academia, systematize SSC experiences and draw lessons for scaling up and replicating SSC experiences across the region;
  - design monitoring and evaluation frameworks that can facilitate the assessment of the impact of such knowledge exchanges;
  - feed knowledge of SSC bilateral and subregional practices into regional platforms;
  - disseminate SSC best practices across country offices, including through regional SSC databases and knowledge platforms; and
  - map existing SSC databases and knowledge platforms and integrate efforts with global initiatives such as the UNDP SSMart and other initiatives promoted by United Nations agencies, programmes and funds as well as other international organizations.

The proposed directions of United Nations support to Arab SSC are summarized in table 7.
4. Concluding remarks

Arab States face political, environmental, social and economic challenges on multiple fronts. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling these challenges can be useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development. In the area of governance, the post-2011 era has created ambitious demands for economic, political and social reforms in the region. Job creation, particularly for women and youth, remains another development priority. Arab States also have the lowest freshwater availability per capita worldwide combined with declining availability of arable land, land degradation and worsening climate change. Alongside food security, undernourishment is another major challenge for the region. Finally, energy security is becoming a serious concern for oil-importing countries given the volatility of oil prices and inefficiencies in use and production.

At the regional level, Arab sustainable development priorities are expressed through the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development. At the national level, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also play a key role in defining Arab States development priorities. Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position (CAP) on the 2030 Development Agenda embrace Arab States development priorities for sustainable development, it must follow up on the unfinished MDGs and embrace Arab States development priorities expressed at the country and regional levels in the context of the SDGs. Common patterns for Arab SSC can be observed across countries in the same subregion and/or with similar income levels. These common patterns can also be traced in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation. In designing its support to Arab SSC, the United Nations can use these models of cooperation as entry points for its support to more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of Arab SSC.

Table 7. What role for the United Nations?

1. Facilitate Arab SSC in priority areas for the region.
   (a) Create an “SSC marker” to give visibility to SSC projects and activities supported by the United Nations;
   (b) Undertake regular assessments of Arab SSC contributions to the SDGs, review progress and identify areas for enhanced support;
   (c) Identify centres of excellence and engage them in SSC initiatives and networks;
   (d) Facilitate triangular cooperation with other developing countries within and outside the region, including through “South-South-South cooperation” arrangements;
   (e) Support foreign experts in obtaining permits to enter and exit countries to participate in South-South knowledge exchanges.

2. Scale up national efforts (policy, institutional and operational levels).
   (a) Map existing commitments, the mechanisms through which funding is disbursed, how organizations can access this funding, and potential barriers to assess, disburse and execute this funding;
   (b) Map existing national and regional funds, the types of SSC activities sourced, and any national/regional gaps considering countries’ typologies (e.g., geographic and income);
   (c) Use MOUs and partnership agreements between national governments and counterparts for more structured SSC;
   (d) Map national capacities for monitoring and evaluation, assess capacity gaps, and provide training to enhance national efforts.

3. Create knowledge-sharing infrastructure for sustainable development.
   (a) In collaboration with Governments and academia, systematize experiences and draw lessons for scaling up SSC;
   (b) Map existing SSC databases and knowledge platforms and integrate efforts with global initiatives such as UNDP SSMart;
   (c) Disseminate SSC best practices across country offices, including through regional SSC databases and knowledge platforms.

4. Concluding remarks

Several policy, institutional and operational challenges must, however, be tackled before Arab SSC can reach its potential. While Arab States face mainly policy challenges related to aligning SSC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the challenges of MICs and LDCs relate primarily to institutional and operational issues such as funding and coordination. Arab fragile States also struggle with limited capacity to articulate and translate development needs into sound SSC initiatives, thus affecting their own capacity to request expertise from other countries. Some Arab States have developed innovative solutions to respond to these challenges.

For the United Nations to enhance its support to Arab SSC for sustainable development, it must follow up on the unfinished MDGs and embrace Arab States development priorities expressed at the country and regional levels in the context of the SDGs. Common patterns for Arab SSC can be observed across countries in the same subregion and/or with similar income levels. These common patterns can also be traced in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation. In designing its support to Arab SSC, the United Nations can use these models of cooperation as entry points for its support to more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of Arab SSC.
References


Annex 1: Mapping of Arab SSC: A non-exhaustive list of SSC/TrC involving Arab States

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<th>Name of initiative</th>
<th>Thematic focus</th>
<th>IDG Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development communautaire à travers le programme Territoires d'apprentissage Territoire de Aprendizaje La deuxième Route d’apprentissages-entrepreneurial des jeunes en Colombie</td>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Basilicata, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Participation entre l’Observatoire du développement humain du Maroc et celui du Mali</td>
<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>Ghana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Échange de coopération Sud-Sud avec le Maroc pour la mise en place de la base de données pour le casier judiciaire, la Matrice de comptabilité sociale, ainsi qu’écrevoir le Ghana pour la mise en œuvre du Cadre d’accélération de l’OMD</td>
<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>Ghana, Morocco.</td>
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<td>Egyptian Electoral Study Tour to South Africa on Addressing the Electoral Process</td>
<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>Egypt, South Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>China, Egypt, Nepal, Seychelles.</td>
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<td>International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service and Public Administration</td>
<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Peru, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay.</td>
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<td>Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo</td>
<td>Global partnerships for develop-</td>
<td>Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.</td>
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<td>Initiative de coopération Sud-Sud entre l’Agence Observeur du développement de l’énergie et l’Agence nationale pour la mise en place de l’agenda pour le développement en matière de l’énergie en Tunisie</td>
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<td>Expanding Cooperation Mechanisms and Solutions in the Arab States</td>
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<td>Municipalities, Risks and Resources Mapping</td>
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<td>Dar al-Athar islamiyyat (DAI) Training of National staff in Restoration and Restoration of Kuwait Museums</td>
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<td>Italy, Lebanon, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.</td>
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<td>Supporting UNDP Jordan and the Ministry of Planning in Jordan to Conduct Needs Assessments in Relation to the Syrian Refugees Crisis</td>
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<td>Morocco, Tunisia.</td>
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<td>Cooperation: Imparting between the Tunisian, the Mauretian and the Mauritanian: (métodologie mesure indicateurs pau-volée)</td>
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<td>Participations des services des aliments Sud/Sud et des Aliments des Beaux Aliments</td>
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<td>Support to Assistance under South-South Cooperation (SSC) with Jordan in Support of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) – Jordan</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Jordan, Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian-European Humanitarian Cooperation in the Middle East</td>
<td>Crisis prevention and recovery</td>
<td>Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Rehabilitation Project in East Jerusalem – Israel, State of Palestine</td>
<td>Crisis prevention and recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction Center for Persons with Severe Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>Poverty reduction</td>
<td>Jordan, BESA Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of the Cultural and Hospital Centre</td>
<td>Poverty reduction</td>
<td>State of Palestine, BESA Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation of Job Opportunities for Youth in Sudan Through Labour-intensive Work Opportunities Project</td>
<td>Poverty reduction</td>
<td>Sudan, BESA Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>The “Karama” Initiative (DigNITY)</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Management Facility                                                    Youth</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td>Territorial Youth Employment Pacts                                               Youth</td>
<td>Albania, Tunisia</td>
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<td>Advancing Equal Opportunities for the Economic Participation of Young Women and Recent Female Graduates in the Arab Countries</td>
<td>Women empowerment</td>
<td>West Bank/State of Palestine</td>
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<td>Women for Solar Electrification of Rural Villages                                Women empowerment</td>
<td>India, Jordan</td>
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<td>Empowerment of Young Women and Recent Female Graduates</td>
<td>Women empowerment</td>
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<td>Technology Transfer to Enhance Rural Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management in the Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen</td>
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<td>Decreasing Vulnerability to Conflict in MENA, through Rural Development</td>
<td>Crisis prevention and recovery</td>
<td>Egypt, Gaza, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen</td>
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<td>Knowledge Access for Rural Inter-connected Areas Network in the Near East and North Africa Region</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen</td>
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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of initiative</th>
<th>Thematic focus</th>
<th>SDG Partners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scaling up of IFAF’s Rural Youth Employment Interventions in the NENA Region</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Yemen</td>
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<td>Expert Exchange Mechanism</td>
<td>Global partnerships for develop-</td>
<td>Global partnership for development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab AIDS Initiative – Partnership between Arab Countries, League of Arab States, UNAIDS and CSOs</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agro-Industries Centre of Excellence with En-Enabling Portal</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Lebanon, Morocco, Philip, Republic of Malaysia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Vital</td>
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