

Introduction

In order to fully harness the vast number of available Southern development solutions to help address old and emerging Southern challenges, the United Nations Secretary-General, in his report to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly (A/62/295), among other things, called upon the international development community, including the United Nations system, to help scale up the impact of South-South cooperation by:

- (a) optimizing the use of South-South approaches in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) intensifying multilateral support for South-South initiatives to address common development challenges;
- (c) fostering inclusive partnerships for South-South cooperation, including triangular and public-private partnerships;
- (d) improving coherence of the United Nations system support for such cooperation; and
- (e) encouraging innovative financing for South-South and triangular cooperation.

With the aim of mobilizing global awareness of and support for South-South cooperation for inclusive development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, proclaimed the 19th of December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, with the first such Day held on 19 December 2004. The event has since served as a vibrant platform for the international community to celebrate achievements; share development successes; explore new avenues for collaboration; forge innovative South-South, triangular and public-private partnerships; and launch concrete collaborative schemes towards achieving internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The GSSD Expo is not designed for the discussion of problems or the presentation of generalized scenarios and prescriptions for solving them, as there is no shortage of forums for such purposes. Rather, it is designed solely to enable developing countries and their development partners, including donor agencies, organizations of the United Nations system, and private-sector and civil society organizations to systematically and regularly showcase their evidence-based SDSs. These solutions are deeply rooted in, and developed under historical, political, economic, social and geographical conditions specific to, the SDS-originating countries.

GSSD EXPO offers three Value Propositions

- (a) It offers SDS-originating countries and their development partners the opportunity to systematically organize and regularly showcase successful, sustainable and scalable SDSs.
- (b) It offers SDS-seeking countries the opportunity to learn from a wide range of SDSs and how these SDSs may help them to solve similar development problems using the South-South approach.
- (c) It offers any interested third party (a donor agency, a United Nations organization, or a private-sector or civil society organization) the opportunity to fully appreciate the true value of the showcased SDSs and take an informed and strategic decision to support scaling-up efforts through innovative triangular and public-private partnership arrangements.

GSSD EXPO

Based on past experience and a strong desire by the international development community to more regularly share and exchange Southern-grown development solutions contributing to the achievement of the IADGs/MDGs, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP launched the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) from 16 to 19 December 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York as an integral part of, and in conjunction with, the fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

As part of the fifth United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the GSSD Expo is designed as a concrete response to the strong commitment made by the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator to help the global South realize its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of Southern-grown development solutions (SDSs), with the support of the donor community and the multilateral system under innovative triangular and public-private partnership arrangements. It also constitutes one of the Special Unit's three global and United Nations system-wide South-South support platforms.