



Concept Note

Side Event to the 19th NAM Summit and the Third South Summit
“Leveraging the Potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation
for the Decade of Action”

Co-organized by

Islamic Development Bank, South Centre, and UNCTAD

20 January 2024, 14:30 - 15:30

Kampala, Uganda

Venue: Victoria Ballroom, Speke Resort Munyonyo

Background

The Republic of Uganda will assume the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China (G-77) in New York for 2024, while also taking over the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement from 2024-2027. Uganda's impending chairmanship of the G-77 and the Non-Aligned Movement marks a significant step in its leadership within the Global South. This role not only enhances Uganda's influence but also underscores the nation's commitment to addressing the collective concerns of developing countries.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was established in 1961 and is today composed of 120 countries. The NAM is a dynamic and effective mechanism to coordinate, support, represent and defend the interests and priorities of its members in the international arena. The work of the Movement is guided by its foundational Bandung Principles and seeks to strengthen concerted action, unity and solidarity between all its members, based on respect for diversity and sovereignty. The 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the NAM took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2019. The 19th NAM Summit in Kampala will be based on the theme of ‘Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence’.

The South Summit is organized by the G-77, which is composed of 134 developing countries and is the largest country grouping in the United Nations. It represents a unique convergence of the countries of the Global South to articulate and promote their collective interests. It also serves as a strategic forum for these countries to voice their concerns, share insights, and forge unified stances on key global issues. The First and the Second South Summit were held in Havana, Cuba, and in Doha, Qatar respectively.

The Third South Summit was originally supposed to take place in 2020, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will now take place in the Republic of Uganda in January 2024 under the theme, “Leaving no one behind.” The Summit also aims at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to come together on major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South Cooperation for sustainable development and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

This side event to the 19th NAM Summit and the Third South Summit is being organized by three leading international institutions engaged in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC).

The **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)** has been supporting SSTrC initiatives among its member countries since its inception. It has facilitated the exchange and sharing of know-how, expertise,

technology and resources. The IsDB's commitment to SSTRC has been pivotal in fostering sustainable development among its member countries.

The **South Centre**, as an intergovernmental organization created by and for developing countries, has benefited from strong cooperation with the G-77 and China. Given its establishment as an outcome of South-South Cooperation, the promotion of SSTRC for addressing the challenges faced by the Global South has always been an important area of work of the South Centre.

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** is mandated to promote the interests of developing countries in economic development and SSTRC is an important area of UNCTAD's work. It plays a critical role in shaping policies and strategies that align with the needs and aspirations of the developing world.

It is evident that the global landscape of SSTRC has undergone a paradigm shift due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the polycrisis facing countries around the world. The increasing importance of SSTRC in dealing with the most critical challenges and crises of our times cannot be underestimated. The scars left by the pandemic, the accompanying financial and debt crises and the need to build more resilient and sustainable societies can be supported through increasing cooperation and experience sharing among developing and least developed countries, as a complement to traditional North-South cooperation.

In this context, the IsDB, the South Centre and UNCTAD identified the need to examine how SSTRC has been transforming in the present contexts and which directions its further evolution should consider in the coming years. For this purpose, these institutions and UNOSSC have been collaborating towards developing a paper titled "Leveraging the Potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Decade of Action". This joint initiative is meant to provide a detailed look at the current state of SSTRC and consider how international development cooperation and the role of developing countries can be enhanced in the future.

The paper aims, among other objectives, to survey the landscape of SSTRC, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic and other events with global repercussions; to examine opportunities and challenges for SSTRC; to explore the interphase between SSTRC and climate change mitigation and adaptation; and to review the national institutional setting necessary for effectively engaging in SSTRC, including through the strengthening of National Ecosystems on SSTRC. The paper also seeks to foster greater dialogue on the direction in which SSTRC initiatives will evolve in the future, having in view the recent experiences of developing countries in dealing with global crises.

Objective of the Event and Issues to be Addressed

On the sidelines of the two summits, the Islamic Development Bank, the South Centre and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will co-organize the event on the theme of "Leveraging the Potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Decade of Action". A background paper on the theme will be made available.

Presentation

The main issues included within the background paper will be presented, providing a detailed review and analysis of the current state of SSTRC, and examining how SSTRC and international cooperation as a whole can be enhanced.

Panel Discussion

Featuring high-level representatives from the different countries and regions of the Global South, the panel discussion will delve into future strategies for SSTRC, focusing on its potential to support the Sustainable Development Goals and address global challenges.

It is hoped that the event will contribute to better conceptualize the role of SSTRC and identify priority issues and areas that the Global South should concentrate on in the short and medium term.

Agenda

Opening Remarks (14:30 – 14:40)	H.E. Hon. Ntabazi Harriet Minister of state for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Republic of Uganda
	Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Speaker Presentations (14:40 – 14:50)	H.E. Dr. Issahaq Umar Iddrisu, Regional Hub Manager and Head of Office for the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) in Kampala, Uganda
	Prof. Yuefen Li, Senior Advisor on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Centre;
Panel Discussion (14:50 – 15:10)	H.E. Amb. Pedro Luis Pedrosa Cuesta, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations
	H.E. Amb. Diar Nurbintoro, Director of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), Indonesia
	Mr. Wang Gang, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China
	Ms. Dima Al-Kathib, Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (Video recording)
Open Discussion with Participants (15:10 – 15:30)	H.E. Amb. Carlos Márcio Cozendey, Vice-minister for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federative Republic of Brazil.
	H.E. Amb. Mohamed Methqal, General Director, Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation
	Mr. Luis G Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General, The Commonwealth

The Side Event will be moderated by Prof Yuefen Li, Senior Advisor on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Centre.

Target Audience and Participants

The target audience for the event includes government officials, international organizations, research institutions, centres of excellence and academics involved in SSTRC, particularly those based in developing and least-developed countries.

This event is open to all participants of the 19th NAM Summit and the Third South Summit.

Contact Persons

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