

Foreword

As developing economies navigate persistent challenges – ranging from financing constraints, geopolitical tensions and climate-related difficulties to rapid technological change – it is important to examine how the opportunities created by expanding trade between developing economies can be broadened and translated into lasting gains for sustainable development.

The challenges are particularly acute for developing economies facing constraints that limit their ability to absorb the impact of international crises, diversify their economies and participate fully in regional and global trade.

South-South and triangular cooperation can play an important role in addressing these constraints. Rooted in principles of solidarity, self-reliance, mutual benefit and national ownership, South-South cooperation enables developing economies to exchange knowledge, expertise, technologies, policy approaches and development solutions elaborated in similar circumstances.

Triangular cooperation complements South-South cooperation by bringing developed economies into the partnership to provide innovative financing,

technical expertise and institutional support while preserving developing economies' leadership and ownership. Together, these forms of cooperation can help economies strengthen institutional and productive capacities, address trade-related constraints, build economic resilience and respond collectively to shared challenges.

This joint WTO-UNOSSC publication, “Transformative partnerships for trade resilience: South-South and triangular cooperation in action”, examines how such cooperation can work in practice for trade and development. It combines an analysis of the changing landscape of South-South trade and the evolution of South-South and triangular cooperation with practical examples of how cooperation among developing economies, supported where appropriate by developed-economy partners, can facilitate knowledge exchange, strengthen institutions, improve market access, support regional integration and enhance the resilience and sustainability of value chains.

The publication identifies priorities for future action. These include focusing cooperation on trade-related constraints, strengthening regional approaches, building partnerships that can

deliver sustained results, and using triangular cooperation to mobilize complementary expertise and resources. Better measurement of South-South cooperation and enhanced reporting can also strengthen the evidence base for policy-making and identify effective approaches.

We invite governments, international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector and development partners to build on the experiences and insights presented in this publication and to deepen practical cooperation that responds to developing economies' priorities.



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