The Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo is a direct response to the requests of Member States and institutional partners to bring practical Southern solutions closer to regional contexts. With a focus on knowledge and experience exchange, stakeholders come together at this Expo to deepen the impact of South-South development cooperation through concrete scaling up and replication efforts.

Yiping Zhou
Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)’s primary mandate is to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. Formerly known as the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was established in 1974 by the United Nations General Assembly as a result of its resolution 3251 (XXIX) and strengthened with the endorsement of the milestone Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (resolution 33/134). The Office is the global and United Nations system-wide South-South agenda advocate, policy coordinator, partnership facilitator, service provider, and resource mobilizer.

In order to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has designed a “3-in-1” multilateral South-South cooperation for development support architecture through which it supports the development community. The Office serves as the Secretariat for and receives policy directives from the United Nations General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and operationalizes these directives through its architecture.

The first pillar of this architecture is the Global South-South Development Academy (GSSD Academy), an online action oriented service platform that facilitates access to hundreds of Southern development solutions and Southern expertise. The best solutions are then showcased at the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo), an annual United Nations system-wide event convened by the Office to showcase the strongest, most successful Southern development solutions to the complex challenges facing the South today. The Office facilitates the transfer of proven solutions through the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE), a physical and Internet-based platform through which Southern solution seekers and providers can transfer and obtain needed technology, development solutions and financing in a secure environment.