- The Expo has provided an important platform for different players and countries from the region and outside the region to come together to discuss, learn and connect, as well as to exchange knowledge, expertise, modalities and solutions around south-south and triangular cooperation, which represents an important and growing dimension in today’s aid landscape; complementing foreign assistance provided by the traditional northern partners.

- As a next step, we look forward to creating more concrete broad-based partnerships among different development actors (governments, private sector, and civil society) and to replicating these successes and transferring development solutions elsewhere in the region, in response to the common development challenges.

- Noting that the energy for south-south cooperation and triangular exchange is mounting, at a time when the majority of the countries in the region (including Jordan) are facing difficult fiscal, economic, and social challenges, having a clear policy and institutional framework (for policymakers, solution providers and solution seekers) to guide and further promote this type of cooperation in the region is becoming urgently needed.

- The UN and other regional partners can play a pivotal role in institutionalizing and expanding this type of cooperation.

How intra-regional South-South cooperation contributes to policy and development coordination in the Arab States region?

- Countries across the region share, to a larger extent, similar challenges. Economies are different in size and scope, but the essentials remain similar, as people are calling out for more job opportunities, economic security, and more inclusive and equitable economic growth.

- In spite of the challenges, there is huge potential exists in the Arab region. Openness is always a strategic choice. The entire region can benefit from promoting intraregional SSC by joining efforts, promoting better communication on policy and development issues, creating partnerships (not only among governments and policy-makers but among private institutions, CSOs and academia), exploring opportunities with the objective of realizing regional integration and addressing rising developmental needs, where this type of cooperation can always be regarded as important contributor to sustainable and more inclusive growth across the entire region.

- Countries regardless of their current economic development status and financial capabilities, have unique experiences to offer and stand to gain through the various types of SSC and triangular exchanges not only in the three thematic focus areas of this expo but also extending to other critical sectors and areas aiming at equitable distribution of development and growth including (but not limited to): human resources development (including vocational training and technical education), healthcare, local development and poverty alleviation, sustainable tourism, MSMEs, infrastructure development (with the objective of promoting and expanding regional integration).

- This type of cooperation has been receiving greater attention at international forms, particularly at a time when levels of foreign aid have been decreasing to middle-income countries (that
embarked on the path of reform and development, yet continue to face serious challenges), while at the same time many southern countries are emerging as important actors in the global economy, and have provided ample support, in terms of financial and technical support.

- Expectations from SSC have multiplied, mainly from the viewpoint of how this type of cooperation can contribute in a more effective manner to policy and development coordination at the national and regional level, as well as contributing to the global development agendas.

- Opening additional channels of communication among Arab states is becoming more apparent and can therefore facilitate wider access to available and well-targeted southern development solutions leading to a greater awareness of common problems and accordingly contributing to improved coordination on policies, and developmental goals and challenges.

How intraregional South-South and triangular cooperation could be strengthened, and what kinds of challenges and advantages exist.

More efforts can still be undertaken to further strengthen south-south and triangular cooperation in our region, including (but not limited to):

- Assisting countries in the region to integrate SSC into their national development strategies and programs. SSC solutions should always be part of the region’s development agendas, particularly at a time when the majority of countries in the region are facing significant challenges, while others are in transition.

- Stronger coordination among the countries in the region as well as with regional partners is further needed, in addition to the continued and strengthened support by the international donor community (including southern donors) to this type of cooperation is of high importance, along with the continued support of Arab donors (namely, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar) and the regional development institutions, such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

- Encouraging the Arab countries to establish technical cooperation agencies or funds (or appoint national bodies as focal points for SSC) with the objective of countries exchanging technical expertise, knowledge, and development solutions as important vehicles to promoting south-south cooperation and responding to emerging development needs. Additionally, Arab providers should be encouraged and supported to develop their own national SSC policies building on the Tunisian experience.

- Fostering dialogue on opportunities and challenges of south-south and triangular cooperation and how to address challenges and gaps in order to pave the way toward stronger and expanded impact of SSC in the future. This would also facilitate the input of SSC providers (Arab donors and countries in the region) to the global policy dialogue, as the post-2015 global development agenda is being shaped. Such a dialogue can be facilitated with the strong support of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation initiative for Arab States.

- Arab countries are encouraged to continue engaging in constructive dialogues (for example through existing platforms such as high level and technical joint committees) to establish and push regional partnerships, conclude or renew bilateral arrangements, and develop joint work plans to further promote and enhance bilateral cooperation in priority areas of mutual interest. This will also pave the way for the private sector and civil society to create partnerships and play more active roles in the development of the region.

- Supporting twining arrangements (and other capacity building instruments) and replicating twining projects (implemented in some countries with the support of northern partners) which assisted in building the capacities of different public institutions in line with international best practices. This will
assist in transferring knowledge, best practices and expertise to similar institutions in other countries across the region (Jordan as an example and EU institutions as twining partners).

- Promoting and advancing intraregional cooperation through the implementation of key regional projects in the important sectors of energy (including electricity), water and transport. These sectors are among the most demanding sectors on the development agendas of the majority of Arab states, and are key to enhancing economic integration; in addition they will help in shaping the geo-economic map of the region in the future.

- Encouraging and enhancing coordination among government bodies with other national players providing SSC, including civil society and private sector require further efforts, especially with a view of harnessing the full potential of knowledge and ensuring sustainability of SSC over time.

- Sustaining technical cooperation programs offered by development funds in the region is crucial such as the Islamic Development Bank Technical Cooperation Program, taking into consideration the impact that it has created over the years, while encouraging other regional institutions to launch similar programs noting the increased demand for such programs. Maintaining support to triangular cooperation and filling any resource gap are also of high importance, particularly noting the existing appetite for such type of cooperation particularly at these difficult regional circumstances, which will assist in facilitating training and capacity building programs to countries in transition as well as assist in the reconstruction efforts of others. Donors are also encouraged to support creating expert exchange mechanisms and establishing centers of excellence in targeted areas.

- Holding a series of Arab States regional south-south development expos on an annual basis with the strong support of the UN and Arab and regional funds to showcase new successful development solutions while bringing together development practitioners and representatives of the UN system, governments, private sector and civil society.

- Reiterate the importance of the three different proposed regional strategic approaches identified in the “Mapping South-South Cooperation Mechanisms and Solutions in the Arab States” launched during this Expo, including:

  1) The importance of creating a national level coordination board on south-south and triangular cooperation

  2) The online regional SSC portal, which will serve as a “one stop shop” for all information related to SSC in the region

  3) The creation of an Arab Regional Funding Facility for scaling-up and financing exchanges of south-south solutions, technology and expertise.

Challenges:

- Funding will always remain as a key challenge. The key challenge in the south-south and triangular cooperation is the lack of funding available to facilitate this type of cooperation through the exchange of experts, technology transfer, and supporting national initiatives and south-grown development solutions. It is therefore important that multilateral, regional, and bilateral donors increase their technical and financial resources to countries in the region to promote this emerging type of cooperation.

- Another challenge is strengthening the cooperation among the Arab States to implement more joint projects and initiatives, which would also require facilitating concessional funding.
- Other challenges could include: how to cope with growing demand? How to increase effectiveness and impact of SSC? How to share and replicate best practices? And how to increase coordination amongst the various actors.

**Key advantages and benefits of intraregional south-south and triangular cooperation:**

- The different modalities and instruments of support available for SSC and the wide range of development solutions that can be provided; capacity building programs, tailor-made training, skill and personnel exchange, technology transfer, building and exchanges best practices, collaboration between researchers (*particularly in scientific research*), as well as financial assistance (*project-type approach and budget support*), therefore, complementing north-south cooperation. In order to achieve a greater impact and results, a blended learning approach is often used, which combines different instruments, learning methods, and resources in a more interactive and meaningful manner.

- SSC is viewed as one of the effective drivers for change that offers a unique framework for identifying, matching and exchanging development solutions to the common challenges. It is widely perceived as an important method for enhancing country ownership, using comparative advantages and scaling-up the impacts of past assistance.

- This type of cooperation can encourage and open new channels of communications across the Arab States, provide innovative solutions to address some of the key challenges in the region promote and strengthen economic and technological integration, and foster stronger coordination on policies and development issues across the region.

- Enhancement of the multiplier effect of technical cooperation and to a larger extent financial cooperation.

- Expanded professional networks and creation of opportunities for countries in the region to expand markets for their skilled nationals, technologies, and products, while making relevant, affordable technologies available to recipient countries.

- Intraregional south-south and triangular cooperation encourages the multi-stakeholders approach, including non-governmental networks, academia, private sectors, civil society which should be further promoted and expanded in order to contribute to achieving development goals and objectives.

- Additionally, intraregional SSC as one of the key drivers for development can further catalyze and speed up the process of further integrating the Arab region as one of the main players in the global SSC.

- Increased knowledge of and confidence in the capacities available in southern providers.

In closing, this event has shown that there is an essential niche for a continued south-south dialogue around capacities different instruments and solutions. The richness of existing models and country-led tools presents a great potential for countries to learn from each other and identify good practices and replicate success stories. In practice, there is much to discover and learn from each other, in order to address shared challenges to scale up knowledge exchange in a sustained and effective manner.