

Instructions

Countries and/or organizations planning to submit a proposal for a ‘thematic initiative’ to the Co-chairs of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) are invited to fill out this form and send it to info@effectivecooperation.org.

Important information

‘Thematic initiatives’ must be:

- Informed by commitments of the [Geneva Declaration](#)
- Self-governed and -funded, and may, on a case-by-case basis, benefit from minimal JST support only.
- annual or longer-term, depending on partners’ ambitions and support before they can get ‘a life of their own’ or dissolve again.
- Led by at least two co-leads.

Priorities of ‘thematic initiatives’ will be decided by and reported back to the Steering Committee and can include the uptake of existing thematic knowledge resources of the Global Partnership (see Annex 4 of the Geneva Declaration) to promote learning, knowledge sharing and policy action. They centre around development of guidance and tools, promoting dialogue, and/or piloting and collecting good practice to bring them to action at country level.

Direct engagement of or feedback loops with countries will be critical to ensure relevance, and they should be driven by different partners to ensure a multi-stakeholder effort. Substantively they can include, but also go beyond issues covered in the GPEDC monitoring.

Title and Main Objective of the Thematic Initiative

Collaboration between Indonesia and Colombia for digitalizing the tool for the South-South Co-operation Self-Assessment within the Effective Development Cooperation principles, and its application in countries of the Global South

Description of the Thematic Initiative

Background

In 2019, the [Outcome Document](#) of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Co-operation, which marked the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40), recognized “the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South and Triangular Co-operation” (Paragraph 11).

Horizontality, which is at the heart of development co-operation among partners from the Global South, is guided by the respect for sovereignty, horizontality, non-conditionality, and mutual benefit. Given the development proximity among developing countries, SSC is key to fostering knowledge exchanges and the co-creation of sustainable solutions to common development challenges.

To provide cutting-edge data on the effectiveness of development co-operation, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) has supported country-led efforts to

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develop a self-assessment tool that is comprehensive and aligned with the Effective Development Co-operation principles. This effort builds on a previous initiative by Mexico on [monitoring the effectiveness principles in the context of SSC](#).

In 2020-2022, Colombia, a GPEDC Steering Committee member, led the development of the [Self-Assessment Framework on the Effectiveness of SSC](#) based on a pilot exercise testing a multidimensional questionnaire to assess the effectiveness of SSC.

The pilot exercise sought to contribute to the design and characterization of a more robust methodology to measure the effectiveness of South-South Co-operation, as a possibility to reflect on how a country manages the effectiveness of its SSC and to identify opportunities for improvement. The following countries participated in the pilot exercise: Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico.

Self-Assessment Framework on the Effectiveness of SSC

After a series of consultations and feedback from the partner countries that participated in the pilot, the final exercise resulted in a questionnaire comprised of 62 multi-choice questions organized into four modules, one for each of the [effectiveness principles](#)—country ownership, focused on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutually accountability—constituting the [South-South Co-operation Self-Assessment](#) tool. (Please refer to Section 4 of the Self-Assessment to see the full questionnaire).

Module 1 explores the principle of "Country Ownership of South-South Co-operation". This issue is addressed from two aspects: the existence and use of National Results Frameworks for all international co-operation, and the existence and use of specific frameworks or guidelines for South-South Co-operation.

Module 2 explores the principle of "Focus on Results". Two essential dimensions are discussed in this segment. (a) Information governance and management: explores whether South-South Co-operation is managed using Data Governance Frameworks (DGFs) and the level of their application. (b) Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of results: the existence and formal application of processes of monitoring, evaluation and reporting of results for South-South Co-operation projects, as well as the implementation of lessons learned in new management mechanisms of South-South Co-operation.

Module 3 explores the principle of "Transparency and Mutual Accountability". This principle inquires about the public availability of information on South-South Co-operation at the national and international levels, explores how reports are made, how often they are published and how their information is used. Additionally, it investigates the co-responsibility when developing SSC activities.

Module 4 explores the principle of "Inclusive Partnerships". Here the level of inclusiveness, relevance and joint action of South-South Co-operation coordination mechanisms for development partners is measured.

A country report was produced for each pilot country (such as the one prepared for Indonesia, [accessible through this link](#)), as well as a special presentation for GPEDC Co-Chairs, collating the data from all pilot countries, [accessible through this link](#).

Confirmed partners (countries, organizations and/or individuals)

Colombia and Indonesia as co-leads of the digitalization of the tool for South-South Co-operation Self-Assessment within the Effective Development Co-operation principles, and its application in countries of the Global South. Co-Leads will seek to integrate a third co-lead from the Africa region.

Co-leads will explore the participation of partner countries to constitute a regional taskforce to promote the Digital tool for SSC Self-Assessment with Southern partners in LAC, Africa and Asia. A group of regional bodies and organisations (e.g. ASEAN, AUDA-NEPAD, ECLAC, SEGIB, UNOSSC, among others) may present valuable platforms for co-leads and partner countries to politically promote the SSC SA, including good practices and lessons learned stemmed from applying the tool.

Proposed activities

Collaboration to digitalize the Self-Assessment tool

As a part of the implementation of the GPEDC Work Programme 2023-2026, the self-assessment framework is expected to transition to an innovative, practical, accessible and democratized version, to widen its implementation spectrum in a collaborative arrangement between Indonesia, one of the GPEDC co-chairs, Colombia and one (1) possible third partner in the African continent, to be identified at a later date.

An online tool would be operationally relevant to improve the format for collecting and submitting data, and expand the implementation of the self-assessment. Noting that the SSC Self-Assessment is not part of the GPEDC Monitoring Framework, a wider implementation of the tool could be explored with partner countries engaged in SSC, during the current work plan cycle of 2023-2026.

To inform the process of developing the digitalized tool for data collection, and to promote the uptake of the SSC Self-Assessment Framework in Global South countries, a **Task Force for the promotion of the Self-Assessment framework on Effective South-South Co-operation** will be formed between Colombia, Indonesia and a third partner from the Africa region. Each partner will promote the implementation of a pilot of the SSC Self-Assessment in countries of its geographical region, and interact with relevant regional bodies to this effect.

Timeline for activities

A proposed timeline/framework for this initiative is as follows:

Timeline	Activity	Output
July 2023	Reviewing and updating the questionnaire based on the feedback from the pilot exercise, and with reference to the renewed GPEDC monitoring framework to ensure complementarity.	Questionnaire revised and provisional Google Forms updated.

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2023	Setting up the Task Force Identification and invitation of an Africa region partner country to integrate the task force as third co-lead Agreement on operating procedures for the task force (e.g. communications channels, focal points, decision-making mechanisms, etc)	A list of partner countries agreed to constitute the regional task force, committing to promote the SSC SA and support neighbouring countries in their region.
2023	Agreement on a timeline of activities and outputs of the Thematic Initiative	Work programme agreed, including a description of main activities, a chronogramme and expected results.
Q3 2023	Distribution of the revised questionnaire to the countries which committed to conduct SSC-Assessment in 2023. Activity to be undertaken by co-leads with support of UNDP/JST.	Updated questionnaire shared with partner countries who committed to undertake the SSC SA in 2023.
Q3 / Q4 2023	Briefing by Co-leads to partner countries committed to implement the SSC SA.	Technical and informative briefings to implementing partner countries conducted by co-leads.
Q4 2023	Agreement on the methodological and technical aspects of the digitalization process	ToRs for developing the data collection tool
Q2 2024	Development of the digitalized data collection tool and pilot implementation Development of an initial version of the digital tool for data collection on effective SSC based on same open source structure as the monitoring framework online reporting tool to ensure compatibility. Activity to be undertaken by the web developer to be contracted by Indonesia.	Development of the digitalized data collection tool by Indonesia.
Q2 2024	Pilot implementation in selected partner countries	Digitalized tool piloted by 3 partner countries.
Q2/Q3 2024	Adjustment of the tool as informed by the testing from the pilot implementation. Activity to be covered by the web developer contracted by Indonesia.	Digitalized tool updated based on feedback from partner countries.
Q3 2024	Migration of the final updated version of the digitalized tool into the GPEDC Website. Process to be undertaken by the web developer contracted by Indonesia.	Final version of the data collection digital tool migrated to the GPEDC Website.
Q3 2024	Development of a toolkit or guidance material that implementing countries could refer to in preparation to the application of the SSC SA.	Guidance material developed.
2024/2025	Promotion of SSC Self-Assessment framework implementation in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean	Wider implementation by led by the promotion of co-leads and the regional task force.

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	<p>using the finalised data collection digital tool. Wider implementation led by the promotion of co-leads and partner countries constituting the regional taskforce.</p>	
	Production of knowledge products from the experience	1) Country-specific results briefs with data set (1 x each participant country); 2) Global progress report
...2026	Showcase of the result in GPEDC High-Level Summit 2026	Potential to be integrated to the 5 th Global Monitoring Round

Are resources secured?

Yes No

Resources needed will be budgeted for 2024 in Colombia (consultant to produce knowledge products related to the implementation and results from the exercise) and Indonesia (web developer of the digital tool for data collection).