GOOD PRACTICES IN OPERATIONALIZING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

2024

Good Practices in Operationalizing the Right to Development (RTD) in South-South Cooperation (SSC)*

A.   Introduction

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and the normative framework of the right to development (RTD) as contained in the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development (DRTD),[1] are both based on a fundamental premise that development can only be realized through solidarity and cooperation among States. The principles of SSC, such as respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, partnership among equals, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit,[2] have developed organically over time through the consistent practices of countries in the global south that manifest their shared history and expressions of solidarity. Unsurprisingly, these principles are also reflected in the normative framework of the RTD which rejects the lens of development as charity or privilege and recognizes instead that self-determined development is a right of all human beings and peoples, the realization of which requires international cooperation. These complementarities make SSC and the RTD natural partners with a mutually reinforcing relationship. While effective SSC can undoubtedly help realize the RTD of individuals and peoples in partner countries, an appropriate operationalization of the normative framework of the RTD in the planning, programming and implementation of SSC can also help ensure success. It is in this context that this study has been developed to identify how the RTD can be operationalized in the policy and practice of SSC. To highlight the instrumental role that the RTD can play, three case studies on SSC demonstrating good practices have been analyzed.

B.   South-South Cooperation

SSC is described as a "manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, according to national priorities and plans".[3] In contemporary times, SSC is being implemented on the ground through various initiatives in the sectors of social (health, and education), economic, environmental, technical, and political, being carried out in a horizontal and participatory manner.[4] It is a key mechanism for cooperation among developing countries to realize common objectives of eradicating extreme poverty and accelerating sustainable development across the countries of the global South.[5]

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[1] A/RES/41/28, 4 December 1986.
[2] *Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation*, A/RES/64/222, 15 December 2009, para 11; *Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation*, A/RES/73/291, 30 April 2019, para 8.
[3] United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *United Nations System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, page 11.
[4] United Nations, *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries*, A/CONF.219/7, 9-13 May 2011, para 140.
[5] United Nations South-South Cooperation for Development, *High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation*, SSC/20/02, 17 May 2021, para 1.

SSC is not merely about a transference of financial resources between countries of the global South. It goes beyond this dimension to include:[6]

- Fostering of the self-reliance of developing countries on the basis of enhancing their creative capacities to envision solutions to their development challenges in line with their aspirations, values and particular needs,
- Exchange of experiences, good practices, and the pooling and sharing of technical resources,
- Transfer of technology and skills appropriate to the needs and development potential of developing countries,
- Building of the capacities of developing countries to identify and analyse development challenges and formulate remedial strategies, and
- Strengthening of technological competence, homegrown developmental planning, and coordination in the global South.

As noted above, SSC is guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, partnership among equals, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. In line with these principles, developing countries themselves initiate, design and manage SSC activities. This means that the United Nations entities and other partners play facilitation and catalytic roles, but only upon request, and hence, financing and programme inputs are the primary responsibility of developing countries. SSC is demonstrated on the ground through partnership building not only between Southern countries but also between the different stakeholders including engagement with "partners in government, civil society, academia and the private sector, and of resource mobilization, including contributions to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, third-party cost-sharing, parallel financing, in-kind contributions and special fund management arrangements"[7]. Examples of such special fund management arrangements include the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund and the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.

The size and scope of SSC has increased over the years. In 2019, 69% of United Nations Development System programme countries were involved in SSC and 63% exchanged information and best practices with Southern partners on science, technology, and innovation.[8]

SSC is often accentuated through "triangular cooperation" by enabling the requesting countries to access a wider range of resources, expertise and capacities required for the development initiatives.[9] Therefore, it represents an opportunity to enhance SSC through the provision of

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[6] United Nations South-South Cooperation for Development, *High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation*, SSC/20/1, 3 May 2021, para 4.

[7] United Nations General Assembly, *Report of High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation*, 20th Session A/76/39, 1-4 June 2021, Decision 20/1, para 16.

[8] United Nations General Assembly, *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR)*, A/75/x-E/2020/7, 24 April 2020, para 263.

[9] A/76/39, page 5.

financial and technical support.[10] [11] One of the case studies analyzed in the following sections is a triangular cooperation between Brazil, Angola, and UNICEF. Brazil refers to its triangular cooperation as Trilateral South-South Cooperation (TSSC). Traditionally, Triangular cooperation is understood as a Northern country or an International Institution funding cooperation among two developing countries. Brazil's articulation of Trilateral Cooperation is different from Triangular Cooperation and it has been explained in subsequent section.

It is important to stress that SSC, as an important element of development cooperation, is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, traditional North-South Cooperation.[12] Indeed, there is a consistent agreement that SSC should not be seen as official development assistance.[13] In fact, the complementarity, uniqueness, and comparative advantages of SSC are seen as contributing to the transformation of the very norms and principles of international cooperation.[14] Uniqueness and complementarity of SSC emanates from the comparative advantages that SSC and triangular cooperation possess over traditional forms of development cooperation. These can be outlined as follows:

- The main comparative advantage lies in the fact that this solidarity driven horizontal cooperation comes from a position of similar lived experiences, similar development journeys, and similar social and cultural circumstances.[15]
- As partner countries engaged in SSC (provider and recipient) are connected by similar settings and challenges, there is an absence of hierarchy, and the cooperation takes place on an equal footing. Also, SSC aims to promote national and collective self-reliance and independence and reinforces political and cooperative relationships.[16]
- SSC is generally more cost effective than other modalities of cooperation. It has emerged as a vehicle for countries to support each other without the need to use a large resource yet has the potential to have a great impact.[17] It is a flexible modality for managing and implementing projects and initiatives on demand, with a clear definition of roles and shared responsibilities. [18]
- Comparative advantage of triangular cooperation is that it offers opportunities to explore synergies and complementarities between diverse actors without the need for negotiating complicated treaties or agreements.[19]
- Triangular cooperation is a tool that allows traditional donors and other partners to join South-South initiatives and helps transcend traditional divides between different types of cooperation.[20]

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[10] United Nations General Assembly, *Report of the Secretary-General on the role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and opportunities*, A/73/383, 17 September 2018, para 30.
[11] Action Plan for Implementation of the UN System Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, page 7.
[12] A/76/39, para 2.
[13] A/CONF.219/7, para 133; A/RES/73/291, para 9.
[14] A/73/383, para 4.
[15] Ibid, para 19-20.
[16] Ibid, para 22.
[17] Ibid, para 26.
[18] Ibid, para 24.
[19] Ibid, para 28 - 29.
[20] Ibid, para 30 - 31.

The Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation had already in 2009 recognized that SSC, "as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development".[21] The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, recognizes the important role of SSC in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on access to science, technology and innovation, including through enhanced knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms,[22] and for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs.[23] The Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), adopted in 2019, also recognizes that SSC and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as it shares the comprehensive vision of development contained in the 17 SDGs.[24] Other major multilateral agreements have also recognized the catalytic role of SSC in realizing sustainable development.[25] In this context, the United Nations has adopted a systemwide strategy to provide support to developing countries in SSC and triangular cooperation.[26]

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that international cooperation is key to responding to and recovering from the pandemic as well as to realizing the SDGs. The United Nations Secretary General, in his report "Our Common Agenda", has highlighted that international cooperation must be at the heart of our collective efforts moving forward.[27] SSC has especially played an important role in the context of responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic when support from developed countries in all aspects dwindled.[28] Various South-South initiatives rose to the occasion during the pandemic including through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the African Union (AU). South-led development funds, such as the China South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, India-Brazil-South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA), India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, and the Perez-Guerrero Fund have been active in combating the pandemic.[29]

The DRTD, the 2030 Agenda, "Our Common Agenda", the BAPA+40 outcome document, and the United Nations System-Wide Strategy, collectively provide a common interface for SSC to contribute towards achieving sustainable development and the RTD.

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[21] A/RES/64/222, para 9.
[22] United Nations General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, A/RES/70/1, 21 October 2015, SDG 17.6, page 26.
[23] Ibid, SDG 17.9, page 26.
[24] A/RES/73/291, para 6.
[25] See for instance, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.
[26] United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, *United Nations System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*.
[27] *Our Common Agenda,* Report of the United Nations Secretary General, 2021.
[28] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *South-South Cooperation at the Time of COVID-19: Building Solidarity Among Developing Countries*, May 2020.
[29] Ibid, Page 91.

C. Complementarities between the Principles of SSC and the RTD

While SSC can undoubtedly contribute to the realization of the RTD, the normative framework of the RTD can also help support SSC initiatives in realizing their objectives. The Working Group on the RTD as mandated by the Human Rights Council has stressed the importance of SSC as a complementary mechanism to North-South Cooperation and has encouraged Member States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the RTD into the design, financing, and implementation of cooperation processes.[30] [31]

There are a number of complementarities that exist between the normative framework of the RTD and the principles of SSC. While the former can be gathered from the various provisions of the DRTD, the principles of SSC are recognized in the Nairobi and BAPA+40 outcome documents. Important complementarities are highlighted below:

Principles of SSC	Normative Framework of the RTD
Respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence	The human right to development implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources (Art.1.2)
	States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom (Art. 2.3)
Partnership among equals	States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties based on sovereign equality […] among all States (Art.3.3)
Non-conditionality	In order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that, accordingly, the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of certain human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot justify the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms (preamble)

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[30] United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 8 October 2021*, A/HRC/RES/48/10, October 15 2021, page 4.

[31] United Nations General Assembly, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019, A/RES/74/152, January 16, 2020, page 6, para 13.

	States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development (Art.3.1)
	The realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (Art.3.2)
	States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States, as well as to encourage the observance and realization of human rights (Art.3.3)
Non-interference in domestic affairs	The realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (Art.3.2).
	States shall take resolute steps to eliminate the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of peoples and human beings affected by situations such as those resulting from […] colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression, foreign interference and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, threats of war and refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination (Art.5)
Mutual benefit	States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties based on […] interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States (Art.3.3)

D. Operationalizing the RTD in SSC

Although there are substantive complementarities between the principles of SSC and the RTD, the normative framework of the RTD adds significant value since it recognizes that development is itself a human right and that realizing it, including through international cooperation, is an obligation of States. Operationalizing the RTD at all stages of SSC activities can help guarantee successful results by consciously providing SSC with a human person and

people-centred approach to development. The following normative features of the RTD are of particular relevance:

1. **Development as a human right**: Development is understood as an inalienable human right of all individuals and peoples and not just as a privilege enjoyed by them. Right-holders are guaranteed three entitlements – to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy – economic, social, cultural and political development. As such, operationalizing the RTD guarantees that the human being and all peoples are central to the developmental objectives of SSC.

2. **Right-holders determine the development priorities:** Since human beings and peoples are the right-holders, it is they who self-determine their development priorities. The role of the recipient States in SSC is to guarantee that their requests for SSC are based on the development priorities of the right-holders. Recipient States do have the right to formulate appropriate national development policies,[32] however, this right is to be exercised by the State vis-à-vis other States and the international community on behalf of or as agents of its peoples and persons, who are the principal rights holders. States are never entitled to exercise this right against the interests of, or to the exclusion of, their own population and individuals, since such formulation is to be done "on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom".[33]

3. **Attention to both the processes and outcomes of development:** The RTD requires focusing not only on the outcomes which are sought to be realized from a development plan or agenda (the "what" question), but also on the processes by which those outcomes are achieved (the "how" question). Both the processes and outcomes of development must be consistent with and based on all other human rights.[34] This is a valuable framework for SSC activities since it helps ensure compliance with all human rights at all stages from planning to monitoring and evaluation.[35] It helps guarantee that there is no trade-off between human rights while implementing SSC projects.

4. **The Duty of SSC Receiving States:** Receiving States have a duty to respect, protect and fulfil the RTD of right-holders within their jurisdictions. This requires formulating national development policies and programmes that promote the RTD, eliminate existing obstacles to development, and ensure that no new obstacles are created.[36] This normative framework is especially important for SSC. The following practical steps may be identified for receiving States:[37]

   a. Receiving States must identify development priorities and set national targets for realizing SDGs based on participation and contribution of right-holders. SSC activities must be in sync with such development priorities and a means for realizing national targets.

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[32] A/RES/41/28, article 2.3.
[33] United Nations General Assembly, *Operationalizing the right to development in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*, A/HRC/48/63, 6 July 2021, para 28.
[34] Ibid. para 12.
[35] Operationalization of the M&E framework of the UN-wide SSTC strategy and action plan. Review of existing UN reporting mechanisms and recommendations, June 2021, page 11.
[36] A/HRC/48/63, 6 July 2021, para 12.
[37] In this context, see Ibid., elaborating on how the RTD can be operationalized in realizing the SDGs.

b. Receiving States must identify obstacles they face in meeting the identified development priorities and national targets for realizing SDGs. SSC activities must be informed by the need to eliminate such obstacles to development.

c. When receiving States find themselves unable to realize their targets on their own due to technological, financial, or capacity deficits, or where obstacles emanate from international levels, they must discharge their duty to seek international cooperation, including for SSC where appropriate. This duty to seek international cooperation, including through SSC, is not affected by the right of the receiving State to reject any cooperation that undermines the RTD. However, the burden to justify such a rejection lies on the receiving State.[38]

5. **The Duty of SSC Providing States:** The obligation to respect the RTD applies to States not only internally but also extraterritorially.[39] RTD requires that cooperation providing States do not adopt and implement policies that undermine the RTD of persons outside their jurisdictions, including in the receiving States. It also requires that international cooperation, including SSC, is viewed from the normative lens of the duty of States to cooperate and not from the traditional lens of donor-recipient charity. In terms of SSC specifically, this entails the following:

a. Cooperation providing States must not impose their own development priorities on receiving States or determine the sectors for aid allocation. These practices inevitably misalign funding with recipient country priorities or undermine recipient country ownership over development programmes. As noted above, it is the right of receiving States to determine their priorities and SSC must be compliant with this principle.

b. Cooperation providers are under an obligation to refrain from conduct that impairs the ability of the receiving State to comply with that State's obligations with regard to the RTD. As such, cooperation providing States must not impose conditionalities while supporting SSC projects that undermine the RTD of recipients. For instance, aid or assistance as loans designed to increase debt, with predatory conditionalities attached, or requiring contracts for companies only from the providing State as a condition of cooperation, can violate the RTD of recipients.[40]

c. Cooperation providers, including while supporting activities through SSC, are under an obligation to refrain from conduct that aids, assists, directs, controls or coerces the receiving State, with knowledge of the circumstances of the act, to breach that State's obligations with regard to the RTD.

6. **The Duty to Conduct Human Rights Impact Assessments:** The RTD entails the right of persons and peoples to actively, freely and meaningfully participate in and contribute to development, and also their right to enjoy such development on the basis of non-discrimination. The only way to ensure that these rights are not denied through SSC activities is through impact assessments. Additionally, since development as a right must be consistent with all other human rights, assessment of the actual and potential impacts on all human rights is indispensable.[41] As such, operationalizing the RTD requires that SSC partner States, individually and jointly, conduct prior and ongoing assessments of the actual

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[38] Ibid. para 34.
[39] United Nations General Assembly, *Right to Development*, A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2, 8 March 2010, annex, para 1.
[40] A/HRC/48/63, para.41.
[41] Ibid. paras 43-46.

and potential risks and impacts of their SSC activities on the RTD and other human rights. Where relevant, this includes requiring contractors to conduct human rights impact assessments and due diligence. This will not only assist partner States in realizing a better and more sustainable project delivery but will also help them in course correction, if necessary.

7. **Data Gathering, Monitoring and Evaluation:** The RTD requires that data gathering, monitoring and evaluation of SSC activities is conducted as part of the discharge by States of their corresponding obligations, including the duty to cooperate. This framework helps channel and focus the objectives of such exercises towards an analysis of compliance with national development objectives and targets, and elimination of obstacles to development for the right-holders, as well as to verify a "fair distribution of benefits" of development through the SSC activities.

E.   Case Studies

In order to identify good practices and ways of operationalizing the RTD in SSC, this practical guidance will utilize three case studies. The case studies analysed here are:

a. India's health care and communication related resilient and sustainable restoration of public infrastructure project in Antigua and Barbuda. This completed project worth USD 1 million has been carried out under the aegis of India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund.
b. South Africa's agriculture related resilient and sustainable genesis of production and commercialisation project in the Comoros Islands. This project worth USD 1.8 million has completed its first phase and is part of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.
c. Brazil's water sanitation and hygiene related resilient and sustainable restoration and construction of public infrastructure project in Angola (metropolitan area of Luanda, municipality of Viana). This project worth USD 1 million is part of Brazilian TSSC and is being funded by the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.

The three case studies, at different stages of completion, provide a broad perspective towards the conceptualisation, operationalisation and implementation of SSC projects on the ground. The analysis below demonstrates that although these SSC projects did not consciously employ the normative framework of the RTD, compliance with the largely complementary principles of SSC ensured, to a large extent, compliance also with the RTD. The studies also demonstrate a range of procedural and institutional mechanisms employed to ensure compliance with such principles. At the same time, they demonstrate that systematically operationalizing the RTD at all stages of SSC can help ensure better results that focus on human beings and peoples as the right-holders of development and thus advance all human rights at the same time.

India-Antigua and Barbuda SSC Project

The requirement of this project in Antigua and Barbuda arose due to the island nation being ravaged by two category 5 hurricanes: Irma and Maria in September 2017.[42] The Post Disaster Needs Assessment carried out by the UN, the EU, the World Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank estimated the total damage (e.g. destroyed physical assets) of the Irma/Maria for Antigua and Barbuda as USD 136.1 million and the recovery cost was estimated to be USD 222.2 million.[43] The combined value of destroyed assets and disruptions in the production of goods and services was equivalent to about 9% of the country's gross domestic product.[44]

This project was conducted within the framework of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund that helped in the restoration of the Barbuda Post Office, and Hanna Thomas Hospital. The hospital was the only health-care facility on the island of Barbuda which catered to 96,000 inhabitants. 85 per cent of the hospital roof was damaged and the water tank and supply system was rendered useless due to contamination.[45]

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[42] India-UN Development Partnership Fund at a Glance, September 2020, Page 13.
[43] Terms of Reference, Rehabilitation of the Barbuda Post Office to support the recovery of post-Hurricane Irma Barbuda, Page 2.
[44] Ibid.
[45] World Health Organisation, Hanna Thomas Hospital and Health Care Assessment Report, 8 September 2017, Page 3, and 8.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund) is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) which is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.[46] Projects supported under this facility advance the implementation of the SDGs based on requests from developing countries. Allocation of resources from the India-UN Fund for a specific project is decided by its Board of Directors in response to project proposals submitted by countries of the global South. Projects benefiting small island developing states (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), and countries where India is concurrently accredited for its diplomatic relations are favoured but others are not excluded.[47] Funding from this facility is directed towards projects that are worth USD 200,000 to USD 1 million, along with provision of a small grant.[48] Although foreseen in the Guidelines, in practice the fund has focused on larger projects and small grants have not been in use. The project implementation timeframe is between 12 – 18 months.

The Board of Directors for the India-UN Fund are the Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York, the Joint Secretary (United Nations Economic and Social) at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, and the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The Board is assisted by a technical expert at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York, and by the Board of Directors Secretariat and fund management team at UNOSSC.

The Secretariat at the UNOSSC receives guidance from the Board of Directors towards strategic direction of the India-UN Fund. The decision to approve proposals and projects are made by the Board of Directors, and not the Secretariat. The Board of Directors is not involved in project operationalisation, as much as in overall project portfolio oversight.[49]

The facility follows a transparent project cycle wherein project proposals submitted by governments of developing countries may consist of a simple concept note describing the strategy, key features, and indicative budget of the initiative. The format and the template for the initial submission are flexible, and clarifications and further details may be sought at later stages.

All projects carried out under the India-UN Fund benefit from the strategic guidance of a Project Steering Committee which provides oversight to the project's activities at country level. Project Steering Committees are comprised, at a minimum, of representatives of the partnering government, the UN system and the Government of India.[50] Its responsibilities include:

- Monitoring overall project implementation, reviewing reports, visiting projects, overseeing progress and challenges, and making recommendations,
- approving annual work plans, substantive revisions, and no-costs extensions under one year,

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[46] India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Programme Guidelines, Page 1.
[47] Ibid
[48] Requests for small grants from the Fund are also initiated by submitting a concept note describing the strategy, key features, and indicative budget of the initiative. Small grants will follow the documentation requirements and approval processes of the implementing agency.
[49] Through personal correspondence with representative of UNOSSC.
[50] India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Programme Guidelines, Page 6-7.

- informing the India–UN Fund Board of Directors in New York of noteworthy developments and challenges impacting the project,
- contributing to partnership development for the implementation of the project, and
- participating in launching ceremonies, closing ceremonies, and public activities of the project.

After the scrutiny of the project proposals and approval of a project, if a United Nations Entity is not identified as Implementing Partner, the UN Resident Coordinator is invited to consult and suggest a suitable UN implementing agency. The Secretariat then works with the identified implementing agency to help it develop a detailed project document as per the extant norms, rules, and guidelines of the United Nations System.

In the case of the Antigua and Barbuda SSC project specifically, the implementing agencies involved were:

- the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Antigua and Barbuda,
- UNDP Barbados and the Easter Caribbean, and
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

In terms of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund generally, the implementing agencies through a multistakeholder approach, are expected to carry out the preparation of project documents with active participation by the partnering government and engagement of beneficiaries, the United Nations system, and other applicable partners, which may include academia, civil society or other local or international actors.

In case of the Antigua-Barbuda project, beneficiaries that actively engaged in the project design, implementation and in the sustainability of its accomplishments included:

- Barbuda Council,
- National Office of Disaster Services,
- Development Control Authority,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Barbuda Affairs,
- Ministry of Social Transformation, and
- Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Under the fund, the project document elaborates on the project's SSC approaches, outlining commitments to SSC elements and principles as mentioned in the previous sections. The project document under the India-UN Fund seeks information from the partner country that has sought assistance under the following headings:

- National ownership and leadership
- Equality and horizontality
- Sustainability
- Development of local capacity
- South-South cooperation elements
- Partner visibility, and
- Concrete development impact

In order to ensure compliance with national priorities and targets, all projects conceptualised, operationalised, and implemented under the India-UN Fund are inscribed within the framework of national development plans and instruments. The operational principles guiding the UN support to SSC projects applicable to the respective UN Implementing Partner (UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean in this case) apply to all projects. This includes socio-economic and environmental impact assessment requirements, including human rights considerations and considerations of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality.[51]

To develop/retain the partner country's capacity and to enhance ownership and leadership towards the project, the procurement, and repair/construction contract are given to local contractors as much as possible for the smooth implementation of the project. Since this project in Antigua and Barbuda was implemented by UNDP, the UNDP rules and regulations were applied for procurement and contract management. This was advanced by the UNDP Country Office, respecting all applicable reporting lines and oversight by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Bureau of Management, and the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations.[52]

As noted in the previous sections, SSC is not merely a transference of financial resources but is multimodal and tries to empower the community as a whole. Training and mentoring processes for local people involved in reconstruction efforts, especially Barbudans engaged in the construction sector, were identified and linked to the reconstruction process. Efforts were made to ensure local contractors have access to participate in the global competitive procurement processes through their awareness and also by emphasising local engagement in the sub-contracts. In so doing, the local population benefitted directly from the project through incomes as well as through the acquisition of knowledge and skills in resilient building, masonry, carpentry and furniture designs.[53]

Under this India-UN Fund, the onus of monitoring project activities lies with the agreed implementing agency, however, additional monitoring is conducted by the cooperation receiving government, representatives of the Indian government, and where applicable, UNOSSC as the fund manager and the Secretariat of the Board of Directors. Frequency of formal reporting , although initially envisioned as a sliding scale from annually to quarterly (as linked to project size), evolved through the practices of the Fund to require quarterly reporting for all projects.

Under the India-UN Fund programme guidelines, within reasonable timeframes and frequency, additional progress up-dates may be requested as needed from project teams. They may include best available financing delivery figures, description of progress and challenges in project implementation and pictures or other materials on project activities.[54] The Secretariat shares fund-portfolio level reporting with the Board of Directors through regular quarterly reports and an annual report.

In the case of the Antigua-Barbuda project, all the aforesaid steps were followed successfully. The Barbuda Post Office is now refurbished. The Hanna Thomas Hospital was completed and handed over even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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[51] Through personal correspondence with representative of UNOSSC.
[52] Ibid
[53] Ibid
[54] India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Programme Guidelines, Page 5.

South Africa-Comoros Islands SSC Project:

The South African agriculture assistance project in the Comoros Islands is a 3 phased project which aims to enhance and improve the production conditions and commercialization of agricultural products on the island of Mohéli. The project Enhancing Agricultural Capacity in the Union of Comoros (USD 1.8 million), representing phase 1, has been conceptualised and operationalised under the guardianship and sponsorship of the India, Brazil, and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund). The 3 phases of the project are as follows:[55]

- A feasibility study including topographic, soil and water surveys,
- Development of agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation facilities and processing and packaging units towards commercial scale farming, and
- Establishment of Agriculture Learning School on Mohéli Island as part of capacity building and training endeavours.

Phases 1 and 2 are completed. Only a small component, irrigation training, for Phase 3 remains outstanding. The overall project conceptualization envisaged a three-stage development initiative. IBSA provided funding for stage 1, which is now in its concluding phase. Planned interventions, which are still to be funded including stage 2 and 3:

- Replication of agriculture infrastructure on other islands of Comoros.
- Replication of Agriculture Learning School on other islands of Comoros.
- To maintain sustainability of part 1 of the project in terms of agro processing (preservation and packaging) and export of agricultural products. (Replicability, scalability, and sustainability of the project intervention forms important elements of criteria based on

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[55] Through personal correspondence with the Project Leader and Research Manager, ARC, Pretoria.

which resources from IBSA Fund are furbished, as also mentioned in the previous section).[56]

- Repair and construction of the Comorian transport system to assist agricultural and economic activities.

Comoros Islands reached out to the South African authorities in 2012 when the leaders of the two countries met on a bilateral visit.[57] This kickstarted the project formalities in terms of locating the relevant partners in South Africa and Comoros Islands, and development of a project proposal.

The South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and UNDP Comoros became the principal partners for this project. To ensure ownership for the project, ARC and UNDP Comoros brought in relevant stakeholders. They included:

- National Department of Agriculture of Comoros,
- Island Ministry of Agriculture,
- Governor of the island of Mohéli,
- Higher learning institutions in agriculture, and economics,
- INRAPE (National Institute of Agriculture Research of Comoros),
- Relevant civil society organisations.

The project proposal was made by ARC in consultation with the relevant Comorian stakeholders. The project sought to strengthen and advance the priorities defined in the Comorian Rural Development Framework, the Comorian Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development, and the new Agricultural Policy of the Comoros, thereby ensuring alignment with national development objectives and targets. In accordance with these objectives, the project sought to accentuate food production for small-scale farmers through an adaptive research strategy, demonstration of sound agricultural techniques for a variety of crops and promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices. The project intends to benefit vulnerable groups, especially small-scale farmers, women and youth, through their participation at the rural economic development centres.

Initially, funding was sought from the World Bank, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.[58] Ultimately, the project document was sent to the Board of Directors of the IBSA Fund and was subsequently approved (the processes of the IBSA Fund approval are discussed in the third case study below).

The feasibility study (phase 1 of the project) on the island of Mohéli which included topographic, soil and water surveys commenced in 2017 and was completed in 2018. To identify and strengthen the local capacities and utilize expertise from IBSA countries, ARC identified local construction companies on Mohéli Island. The raw materials and construction machineries were largely sought from South Africa.[59]

The monitoring and reporting team for the project consisted of 3 members from ARC, 1 from UNDP Comoros, and 1 from the National Institute of Agriculture Research of Comoros

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[56] IBSA Fund Programme Guidelines, Page 6-7.
[57] Through personal correspondence with the Project Leader and Research Manager, ARC, Pretoria.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Ibid.

(INRAPE). ARC was the implementing agency for the project, with UNDP being the Project Manager.[60]

Completion of this IBSA project on Mohéli Island, Comoros has been a successful venture. The outcomes, achievements, and advantages that could be linked to the objectives of the IBSA Fund are as follows:[61]

- Outcomes:
  - A production model for vegetable crops is tested and developed for replication throughout the Comoros.
  - Markets for agriproducts are developed through marketing and support to remove bottlenecks in agricultural production.
  - Development of irrigation infrastructure and procurement of modern agricultural equipment
  - New agricultural practices are developed and disseminated at other sites on Mohéli and neighbouring islands.

- Key Achievements:[62]
  - Organic agricultural techniques were introduced, and farmers were trained, which enables a significant reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The organic farming school has brought together the indigenous knowledge of farmers and the new practices based on accurate scientific data to improve agricultural production on the island of Mohéli.
  - 15 tractor operators were trained, two of whom are currently working at the farm school.
  - A 30 m weir, a 460-m3 reservoir, and an infield electrical pumping system we built.
  - 20 composting units were established in Mibani. The compost was ready to use within 6 months; on average, 450 kg of compost were produced per unit.
  - Over 10,000 young Comorians from the diaspora were targeted and exposed to the project activities via social media platforms.
  - Irrigation designing specialists (9) from Comoros were trained in South Africa

In addition to the financial support through the IBSA Fund, Comoros is benefiting from technical support from the South African Agricultural Research Council, which enhances the sharing of experiences and knowledge between the two partner countries. This cooperation has also facilitated the linking of Comorian and South African institutions that will eventually be able to develop further collaborations beyond the lifetime of this project. Moreover, in accordance with the principle of mutual benefit on agreed terms, equipment, agricultural inputs and agricultural infrastructure were purchased in South Africa, providing new opportunities for local suppliers to explore the international market and South African products.

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[60] Ibid.
[61] IBSA Annual Report 2019, Comoros Enhancing Agricultural Capacity
[62] Ibid.

Brazil-Angola-UNICEF Trilateral SSC Project:

As noted earlier, Trilateral South-South Cooperation (TSSC) brings together different actors: developing countries, developed countries and/or International Organisations to share knowledge and implement initiatives aiming at the common goal of promoting development. It builds on "shared governance among the different actors involved and identifiable comparative advantages and can be implemented through different institutional settings, such as: South-South-South; South-South-International Organization; "Trilateral +1"; and newer forms of horizontal cooperation".[63]

The Brazilian Government considers Trilateral South-South cooperation as a modality for international development cooperation that complements bilateral SSC. This project in Angola is being developed under the aegis of the Brazilian TSSC along with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as the international organisation involved.

Over the years, developing countries have sought UNICEF Brazil Country Office (BCO) to provide engagement and support in TSSC arrangement along with the Government of Brazil (GoB) to explore ways to learn from and adapt Brazilian successful practices in the national contexts of the requesting countries. Based on a series of similar requests from countries of the global South, BCO along with GoB in close coordination with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry for External Relations (ABC/MRE), has been collaborating with Brazilian national and subnational government and civil society partners under several TSSC arrangements.[64]

The life cycle of TSSC projects, reflected also in the Angola project, are as follows:

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[63] Guidelines for Trilateral South-South Cooperation Initiatives from UNICEF Brazil and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, November 2017, Page 9.
[64] Ibid. Page 10.

- Expression of Interest: An Official Request Letter is first submitted by the partner country to local Brazilian Embassy or to BCO by an Official at Ministerial level, together with a TSSC Request Form. It is important that the letter states the intention to cooperate with the Government of Brazil under a TSSC arrangement supported by UNICEF. The TSSC Request Form should indicate key preliminary information on the country, the problems/needs to be addressed by the proposed initiative, the areas of cooperation, the main stakeholders to be involved. In this case, Angolan authorities reached out to UNICEF Angola Country Office and together they reached out to Government of Brazil with the request letter and TSSC Request Form.[65]

- Preliminary Assessment: Upon receipt of the request, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC/MRE) assessed convergence between the requested cooperation,[66] and
  o Availability of successful Brazilian experiences in the sector of interest (in line with UNICEF's mandate: health; HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation, and hygiene - WASH; nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion). The Angolan demand met not only the GoB's expertise but, also with the UNICEF's mandate.
  o Other SSC cooperation initiatives between Brazil and the requesting country in the area of interest (to avoid duplicity).

- Identification of Potential Brazilian Counterpart: ABC/MRE consulted pertinent Brazilian institutions (ministries, agencies, etc.) on availability of emblematic Brazilian cases and successful practices in the specific sector or theme of the request with the potential of becoming the object of SSC. In this case the relevant Brazilian counterparts are:[67]

  - Fundacão Nacional de Saúde (FUNASA) or the National Health Foundation of the Brazilian Ministry of Health,
  - Companhia de Água e Esgoto do Ceará (CAGECE) or Ceará Water and Sewage Company, and
  - Secretary of Ceará State.
- Joint Consultation:[68] UNICEF, BCO and ABC/MRE scheduled video conferences with requesting authorities to discuss and agree upon the following:

  o Discuss the previously identified Brazilian experiences, policy-related innovations, and good practices to be shared,
  o The scope and key aspects of the development issues giving rise to the TSSC request,
  o Identify potential counterparts and stakeholders to be involved in the organization and execution of the Project/Programme activities (in Brazil and in the requesting country and UNICEF units) and discuss their technical and operational roles and responsibilities, coordination arrangements and communication channels,
  o Identify necessary resources and contributions from each party,
  o Establish the next steps in the process, including key issues concerning the deployment of the Scoping Mission.

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[65] Through personal correspondence with representative of ABC, Brazil.
[66] Guidelines for Trilateral South-South Cooperation Initiatives, November 2017, Page 25.
[67] Through personal correspondence with representative of ABC, Brazil.
[68] Guidelines for Trilateral South-South Cooperation Initiatives, November 2017, Page 26.

UNICEF BCO and ABC/MRE prepared the Minutes of the Tripartite Planning Meeting and shared it with Brazilian and Angolan counterparts.[69]

- Preparation for Terms of Reference for Scoping Mission:[70] Stakeholder consultations are the foundation for project design and implementation. The Scoping Mission constitutes the first opportunity for Brazilian and requesting country counterparts, together with ABC/MRE and UNICEF, to meet and identify the key elements of a future Project/Programme Document. To that end, a joint team composed of delegates from ABC/MRE, Brazilian partner organizations and UNICEF BCO experts was deployed to Angola with the objectives of:

  - Conducting a capacity needs assessment related to the issues giving rise to the SSC request through iterative, multi-stakeholder consultations,
  - Consulting national stakeholders and the scope of their involvement,
  - Jointly identifying priorities and key elements for project design, including a draft log frame matrix,
  - Establishing preliminary agreements on joint implementation and tripartite coordination arrangements,
  - Pinpointing required in-kind and financial contributions to be mobilized by counterparts.

The first step for deployment of a Scoping Mission was the preparation of Terms of Reference (ToR). ABC/MRE and UNICEF BCO liaised with partners in Brazil and in Angola, as well as with other UNICEF Units, to facilitate formulation and negotiation of the ToR.

- Organisation and Implementation of the Scoping Mission:[71] In preparation for the mission, ABC/MRE was responsible for providing official passports and, when necessary, visas to the Brazilian delegates participating in the scoping mission. In Angola, the local UNICEF Office provided assistance to the joint Brazil-UNICEF delegation and liaised with local counterparts to schedule meetings and activities. Brazilian cooperating institutions and counterparts in Angola were responsible, in coordination with ABC/MRE, UNICEF BCO and local offices, for the preparation of presentations and other background materials. ABC/MRE and UNICEF BCO liaised with UNICEF Angola Office to define the methodology to be used during the final workshop for the elaboration of the draft log frame matrix.

- Preparation of the Scoping Mission Report:[72] Two weeks after the mission, preparation of a joint Scoping Mission Report containing adequate information to enable the formulation of a draft project document was prepared. Monitoring and evaluation actions as required, such as follow up on action plan and next steps were undertaken.

Since this Brazilian TSSC sanitation and hygiene project requested by Angola tapped into India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), the

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[69] It is important to emphasise that the scoping follows an earlier visit carried out in November 2019, which included the visit of officials and experts from Angola to Brazil to learn in situ the Brazilian experience. It was a long process interrupted by Covid-19.

[70] Ibid, Page 27.

[71] Guidelines for Trilateral South-South Cooperation Initiatives, November 2017, Page 27

[72] Ibid

Final Project Document was sent to Brazil's IBSA Focal Point in Brasilia. The document was then sent to the IBSA Board of Directors for final approval. The Brazilian government decided to make this project a part of the IBSA Fund.[73]

The Board of Directors of the IBSA Fund is composed of the Deputy Permanent Representatives of India, Brazil and South Africa to the United Nations in New York.[74] IBSA Focal Points are Senior Officials in the capitals representing the Governments of IBSA countries.[75] A Project Focal Point is designated at an IBSA Embassy in the country where an IBSA Fund Project is being implemented, thus, in this case the Brazilian Embassy in Luanda, Angola has been identified as the project focal point. The IBSA Fund, like the India-UN Fund is managed by UNOSSC, New York, and it also functions as Secretariat of the Board of Directors.[76]

Unlike the India-UN Fund where the project request must be made only by the national government of a developing country, the IBSA Fund considers projects floated for approval by non-governmental institutions from partner countries as well, provided the projects are endorsed by the local government. In this case however, the project request was made by the Angolan government with the active involvement of local non-governmental organisations.

Substantive criteria towards evaluating project proposals at the IBSA Fund are as follows (Proposals may not necessarily meet all these criteria):[77]

- The proposal should be geared towards reduction of poverty and hunger.
- The proposal should have clear alignment with the priorities of the partner country.
- The proposal should adhere to the basic principles of SSC.
- The proposal should encourage the use and transfer of capacities and expertise available in IBSA countries.
- The proposal should pay attention to identifying and strengthening local capacities.
- The Fund will give priority to projects in which national entities in the beneficiary countries will participate and will continue to work in a longer- term perspective.
- Proposals should indicate how upon its implementation, sustainable activities will be improved or created to continue in a longer-term perspective.
- The activities supported by the IBSA Fund will have clearly identifiable development impact attributable to the Fund.
- Projects should be replicable and scalable for dissemination in interested developing countries as examples of best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger.
- The Fund would encourage new ways of approaching development issues with emphasis on the replication of innovative experiences already implemented in other developing countries, in particular experiences in the IBSA countries.

The IBSA Fund considers the following as priority project areas: health, education, sanitation, food security, agriculture, and capacity building in general.

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[73] Through personal correspondence with representative of ABC, Brazil.
[74] IBSA Fund Programme Guidelines, Page 3.
[75] Ibid.
[76] Ibid, Page 4.
[77] IBSA Fund Programme Guidelines, Page 6-7.

Among other criteria, the Board of Directors also considers projects that address issues regarding empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. This sanitation project in Angola with strong elements of capacity-building and expertise sharing along with women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming, and spreading education about health and hygiene, thus, fits perfectly with the objectives of the IBSA Fund.

The Angolan project has recently been approved by the IBSA Board and will commence soon. The project in Viana, part of the metropolitan area of Luanda will be the pilot project with strong emphasis on capacity building and expertise sharing in the sector of sanitation and hygiene. This IBSA Funded project is part of the wider WASH Project. The expectation is that the Angolan authorities will be empowered to carry out similar projects in different parts of their country in future.

F.   Analysis of the Case Studies with Respect to the Principles of SSC and RTD

The following table compares the principles of SSC with the three case studies. The analysis demonstrates that all three projects have fully complied with the principles of SSC as applicable to their different stages of completion.

Principles of SSC	India-UN Fund	South Africa IBSA Fund	Brazilian TSSC
Respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence	Request made by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Development priorities of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda were the determining criteria. The involvement of the Government of India was only at the project proposal scrutiny, and monitoring phase with the involvement of neutral actors. The principle was also ensured through the role of UNOSSC as the fund manager and secretariat of the Board of Directors of the Fund, and the selection of the local and neutral international organizations as the implementing organs.	Request made by the government of the Comoros Islands based on national priorities and targets. Through UNOSSC as Secretariat, the involvement of UNDP Comoros and roping in of various ministries, national organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions from Comoros ensured respect for this principle.	Request made by the government of Angola. Development priorities were aligned with national priorities. The involvement of UNICEF as a TSSC partner and of UNOSSC as the fund manager and secretariat of the Board of Directors of the IBSA Fund ensures respect for this principle.
Partnership among equals	The procedures followed ensured respect for this principle by filtering out donor control seen in many traditional forms of ODA. The project was not merely a financial transaction, but capacity building of local	The procedures followed ensured respect for this principle by filtering out donor control seen in many traditional forms of ODA. The project was not merely a financial transaction, but capacity	The procedures followed ensured respect for this principle by filtering out donor control seen in many traditional forms of ODA. The project was not merely a financial transaction, but capacity

	people was an important element of the project.	building of local people was an important element of the project.	building of local people was an important element of the project.
Non-conditionality	No macroeconomic or political conditionalities were imposed on the government of Antigua and Barbuda. Operating through a dedicated fund ensured that the support was not in the form of loans.	No macroeconomic or political conditionalities were imposed on the government of the Comoros Islands. Operating through a dedicated fund ensured that the support was not in the form of loans.	No macroeconomic or political conditionalities are imposed on the government of Angola. Operating through a dedicated fund ensures that the support is not in the form of loans.
Non-interference in domestic affairs	There was no interference from the Government of India at any stage of the project implementation or in domestic affairs. Local partners in the implementing and monitoring phase of the project were brought on board by UNDP Barbados in consultation with the government of Antigua and Barbuda.	There was no interference from the Government of South Africa at any stage. Bringing on board multiple stakeholders like Institute of Higher Learning, relevant CSOs, and monitoring bodies was done by the Comorian authorities without interference from ARC.	Incorporation of local bodies and CSOs in the project is done by the Angolan authorities without any interference from the Brazilian authorities.
Mutual Benefit	No economic or financial benefit accrued to India, except goodwill generated from the project.	South African public and private sector companies were requested for supply of raw materials and machineries for agriculture infrastructure construction on Mohéli Island. This was however not a condition for the project.	No economic or financial benefit to the Brazilian side has been reported yet.

The following comparative table analyses the SSC case studies from the perspective of the normative framework of the RTD that go beyond the complementarities with the principles of SSC. The focus of the RTD is on individuals and peoples as the right-holders and not the States.

Normative Framework of the RTD	India-UN Fund	South Africa IBSA Fund	Brazilian TSSC
Development as a human right of individuals and peoples	Although this was a government-to-government initiative, it contributed to the RTD of individuals and peoples in Antigua and Barbuda. Participation and contribution of right-holders was ensured.	Although this is a government-to-government initiative, participation and contribution of the right-holders has been ensured in the first phase.	Although this is a government-to-government initiative, participation and contribution of right-holders has been ensured thus far.
Right-holders determine the	The project was based on development priorities	The project is based on the development	The project is based on development priorities

development priorities	identified by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda reflecting the immediate needs of the right-holders pursuant to the devastation caused by the hurricanes.	priorities and targets identified by the Government of Comoros Islands reflecting the priorities of the right-holders.	and targets identified by the Government of Angola pursuant to a process of developing national plans reflecting the needs of the right-holders.
Attention to both the processes and outcomes of development process:	There are no indications of violations of rights or trade-off between different rights at any stage.	There are no indications of violations of rights or trade-off between different rights at any stage of phase 1.	There are no indications of violations of rights or trade-off between different rights at the current stage.
Duty of Receiving States to identify development priorities and set national targets, and identify obstacles thereto.	This was fully complied with. The SSC project was aligned with and satisfied these duties of the receiving State.	This was fully complied with. The SSC project was aligned with and is aimed at satisfying these duties of the receiving State.	This was fully complied with. The SSC project is aligned with and is aimed at satisfying these duties of the receiving State.
Duty of receiving States to seek international cooperation	This was fully complied with.	This was fully complied with.	This was fully complied with.
Duty of cooperation providing States to not impose their own development priorities on receiving States or determine the sectors for cooperation allocation.	This duty was fully complied with.	This duty was fully complied with.	This duty is fully complied with thus far.
Duty of cooperation providers to refrain from conduct that impairs the ability of the receiving State to comply with that State's obligations with regard to the RTD.	This was fully complied with.	This was fully complied with.	This is fully complied with thus far.
Duty of cooperation providers to	This was fully complied with. No conditionalities were imposed, nor were	This was fully complied with. No conditionalities were	This is fully complied with thus far. No conditionalities have

refrain from conduct that aids, assists, directs, controls or coerces the receiving State, with knowledge of the circumstances of the act, to breach that State's obligations with regard to the RTD.	there operational controls by the Government of India that violated this duty.	imposed, nor were there operational controls by the Government of South Africa that violated this duty.	been imposed. The TSSC design does not permit operational controls by the Government of Brazil that might violate this duty.
The Duty of partners to Conduct Human Rights Impact Assessments	Although impact assessments appear to have been conducted in some form in view of the internal regulations of UNDP which was an implementing partner, there were no impact assessments required, mainstreamed or conducted by the cooperation receiving State or the providing State.	There was no impact assessment required, mainstreamed or conducted by any partner involved.	There is no impact assessment required, mainstreamed or conducted by any partner involved as yet. However, the project is in the initial stages.
The duty of Data Gathering, Monitoring and Evaluation with respect to impacts on the RTD.	Regular monitoring of the project was carried out to ensure a timely completion of the project in a cost effective way. Data gathering, monitoring and evaluation of the project, including with respect to impacts on beneficiaries, were carried out, although not specifically on their RTD or from a human rights perspective.	Regular monitoring of the project was carried out to ensure a timely completion of the project in a cost effective way. Data gathering, monitoring and evaluation of the project, including with respect to impacts on beneficiaries, were carried out, although not specifically on their RTD or from a human rights perspective.	The project is in its initial stages.

G. Contribution of the SSC Projects to the Realization of Human Rights

The DRTD describes development as a "comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom".[78] After depicting development in terms of both a process and an outcome, the DRTD recognizes that development itself is a human right.[79] However, it also clarifies that for this right to be realized, development must be

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[78] A/RES/41/28, 4 December 1986, preambular para. 2

[79] Ibid, article 1(1).

of such a nature "in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized".[80] Therefore, not only is development a self-standing human right, but its operationalization also plays an instrumental role in the realization of all other human rights. As demonstrated above, all the three SSC projects contributed or are contributing substantially to the realization of the RTD in the partner countries, including the entitlement of right-holders to participate in, contribute to and enjoy development. The projects directly seek to overcome the obstacles to development in partner countries and help create an enabling environment for realizing the RTD.

At the same time, the SSC projects are also deployed in a manner in which other human rights can also be realized. Indeed, all three projects demonstrate substantial contributions to improvement in other human rights.

India's project in Antigua and Barbuda for restoration of the hospital directly contributed to the realization of the right to life, the right to health and the right to water and sanitation. The restoration of the post office also contributed to the right to freedom of speech and expression, including the right to information. In general terms, restoration of public facilities ravaged by natural disasters responded to the downturns in the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment of the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

The South African SSC project in Comoros Islands for enhancing agricultural capacity has already contributed significantly not only to the realization of the RTD but also other human rights, especially the rights to food and health and the right to be free from hunger. The projects helped partner countries discharge their duties "to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources".[81] Capacity-building and training related to agricultural techniques and practices have also contributed to the realization of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, the right to education, and the right to information. By incorporating indigenous knowledge of farmers as well, the project has promoted traditional knowledge. Reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides also contributed to improvement in the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In general terms, the project has helped make significant strides towards the improvement of the rights of peasants.[82]

Brazil's SSC project in Angola related to sanitation and hygiene seeks to directly contribute to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to health, the right to education and the right to information. By empowering women through education and capacity-building in sanitation and hygiene, the project contributes also to gender equality, and realizing the rights of women and girls.

H. Conclusion and Recommendations

- The above analysis has demonstrated that the principles of SSC and the RTD are complementary and mutually reinforcing. SSC practices as demonstrated by the three case studies analysed above also indicate substantial compliance with the principles of RTD.

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[80] Ibid.
[81] International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 12(2)(a).
[82] See: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, A/RES/73/165, adopted on 17 December 2018.

However, this synergy has more to do with the commonality in principles rather than resulting from a conscious act of mainstreaming the normative framework of the RTD in SSC activities. Operationalizing the RTD would add significant value in efforts to ensure that SSC meets its developmental objectives. It would do so by making the normative goal for SSC, the realization of the RTD of human beings and peoples as right-holders. This normative framing also situates SSC within the duty of international cooperation. Since SSC predominantly operates at the governmental levels, operationalizing the RTD would help to ensure that SSC channels its objectives towards the realization of development as a human right in discharge of the duty by partner States to cooperate with each other, and that such development would comprise the constant improvement of human well-being.

- SSC projects requested by States are more likely to realize their development objectives when they are aligned with national development plans and policies that seek to realize the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda represents a comprehensive set of integrated, indivisible, global and universally applicable goals and targets that all States have agreed to be essential for realizing sustainable development. At the same time, the Agenda also recognizes that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country for achieving sustainable development, according to its national circumstances and priorities.[83] States are to consider their different national realities, capacities and levels of development in deciding how the "aspirational and global targets" should be incorporated in national planning processes, policies and strategies.[84] Identification of these priorities also enables States to identify in a systematic manner the specific international cooperation they need, including through SSC. The DRTD provides the normative framework for doing so by stipulating that States are under a *duty* to formulate appropriate national development policies.[85] But it further stipulates that the aim of this exercise should be the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals.[86] Operationalizing the RTD therefore means that States must discharge their duty to set national development policies and priorities for achieving the SDGs with the human person and peoples as the central subjects of development, identify obstacles to such realization, and then situate the SSC requests within this context. The cases analysed demonstrated that SSC projects were aligned with national development plans and policies aimed at realising the SDGs. This alignment represents good practice.

- SSC principles require full respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence of the cooperation receiving State. The RTD also guarantees to States the full *right* (in addition to being a duty) to determine their national development priorities, plans and policies,[87] which must inform SSC activities. In the case of the RTD framework, however, there is a clear insistence that States possess this right on behalf of or as agents of the right-holders of development viz. human beings and peoples within their jurisdictions. As such, when States identify the cooperation they need as part of SSC, these must reflect the development needs and priorities of the right-holders. This requires participation and contribution of the right-holders at all stages. The projects analysed above did not permit a detailed evaluation of the process by which national priorities and targets were set by the receiving countries. Nevertheless, the projects were clearly based on identified national priorities as reflected in national policy documents, which should in all

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[83] A/RES/70/1, para.59
[84] Ibid., para.55.
[85] A/RES/41/28, article 2.3.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.

cases be finalized only with the participation and contribution of the right-holders. The projects analysed however did involve participation and contribution of the right-holders in different ways in the planning, programming and implementation of the SSC projects. This represents good practice as is required by the RTD normative framework. SSC projects should mainstream the participation and contribution of the right-holders at all stages to fully realize their objectives.

- The case studies analysed indicate the good practice of projects being considered for SSC only upon request by the receiving State. This is an important mechanism to ensure national sovereignty, ownership and independence. The RTD framework recognizes a duty for States to seek international cooperation in case they find themselves unable to discharge their RTD obligations on their own. Operationalizing the RTD therefore means that seeking international cooperation when needed is not merely a good practice but is in fact an obligation. At the same time, requesting States retain the right to reject international cooperation if its nature or conditionalities undermine the RTD. In fact, the RTD framework means that States are under a duty to reject such cooperation. The principles of SSC are fully aligned with this framework and the cases analysed demonstrated compliance with the above norms. Operationalizing the RTD will permit a systematic mainstreaming and consideration of the aforesaid norms in the processes and decisions for seeking and receiving cooperation under SSC.

- The RTD framework, by framing international cooperation as a duty, ensures that cooperation providing States do not impose their own development priorities or sectors for cooperation allocation on the receiving States. It also provides the normative basis for the SSC principle of "non-conditionality" by recognizing the duty of cooperation providing States not to impair the ability of receiving States in realizing their RTD obligations. It helps ensure that cooperation providing States are not aiding or assisting a receiving State in violating that State's RTD obligations. It also ensures respect for other principles such as "partnership among equals", "non-interference in domestic affairs" and "mutual benefit" by prohibiting cooperation providing States from directing, controlling, or coercing the receiving State in a way that results in violation by the latter of its RTD obligations. Operationalizing the RTD means that cooperation providing States must systematically mainstream the aforesaid considerations into all processes and decisions related to their SSC support.

- Good practices to ensure the aforesaid can be drawn from the three case studies above. To ensure compliance with both the SSC and the RTD principles, it is important that cooperation providers establish filtering mechanisms that prevent any kind of control over the recipient country through support for an SSC project. The establishment of dedicated funds with their own transparent guidelines such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund or the IBSA Fund are excellent mechanisms to ensure this. Similarly, utilizing the support of the UNOSSC as fund manager or secretariat to the Board of Directors of a Fund, ensures the necessary neutrality preventing traditional donor control. It is equally useful that implementing bodies for SSC projects are chosen from the requesting State and all requesting governments are part of the Project Steering Committee. If the involvement of a specialized body of the cooperation providing State is necessary, then such implementation can better be done in combination with local bodies from the receiving State and an international body, such as the UNDP and UNICEF in the cases analysed.

- Whether through bilateral arrangements or through triangular cooperation such as Brazil's TSSC, the involvement of UN entities such as UNDP and UNICEF represents good practice that allows for expertise to be drawn from the UN system. The UN System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development provides excellent guidance to UN field offices on providing such support. States engaging in SSC should seek to make use of such available support. The duty to cooperate inherent in the RTD is anchored in the Charter of the United Nations which provides the normative basis for cooperation between States and the United Nations system for realizing development and human rights.[88]

- Human Rights Impact Assessments are not yet systematically mainstreamed across SSC practices. BAPA+40 outcome document records the commitment that human rights will be integral to SSC practices. However, unless impact assessments are conducted prior to, during and after SSC projects, it is difficult to guarantee that human rights have been respected, protected or fulfilled. Operationalizing the RTD requires that such assessments are conducted across all cooperation practices so as to ensure the rights of human beings and peoples to participate in, contribute to and enjoy development without discrimination in a way that no human rights are undermined. The processes of the India-UN Fund and IBSA Fund call for each UN Entity to apply its own regulations, standards and methodologies for social and environmental screening, including human rights issues. Although most UN Entities have significantly expanded their requirements and approaches, among the case studies analysed, only the India-UN Fund contained elements of impact assessment, which was in fact facilitated because the UNDP was an implementing partner and followed its own internal cooperation support requirements. Although States are required to conduct impact assessments, they can seek assistance from UN bodies or other specialized entities in discharging this duty. As a good practice, moving forward, SSC projects should aim at mainstreaming such impact assessments across project cycles.

- Data gathering, monitoring and evaluation of SSC projects are indispensable means for ensuring that their objectives have been realized. Operationalizing the RTD requires that the impacts on realizing the RTD of the right-holders are also made part of these processes. Such tools help connect SSC with realization of development not just as a policy objective but as a human right. The case studies analysed above demonstrated that regular monitoring of the projects that have fully or partly culminated were carried out to ensure timely completion in cost effective ways. Although results with respect to the beneficiaries were generally part of the data gathering, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, mainstreaming the impacts on the RTD of the right-holders through such SSC projects will greatly enhance the realization of developmental objectives.

- In general, the nature of SSC is such that it predominantly operates at government-to-government levels with the understanding that the governments represent the voices of their people. However, there is room for citizens and peoples, including through civil society organizations, to also make requests with endorsement from the government of the receiving State. For example, in principle, the India-UN Fund and IBSA Fund do cater to project proposals brought forward by CSOs as long as they are put forward by the government of the receiving State. This represents good practice. There are examples of Governments presenting proposals on behalf of civil society in the India-UN Fund as well (e.g. Liberia).

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[88] Charter of the United Nations, articles 1(3), 55 and 56.

- As analysed in this study, SSC and triangular cooperation (including TSSC) have their own unique features that differentiate them from traditional donor-recipient frameworks of North-South Cooperation. Their value lies in the multidimensional scope of cooperation based on sharing of experiences, information, knowledge, expertise, technology, as well as financial support. The principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, partnership among equals, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit, establish the platform for successful planning, programming and implementation of SSC. Operationalizing the RTD enables a conscious effort at "humanizing" such SSC by framing its objective of development as a right of all human beings and peoples, and as an enabler of all other human rights, and by framing such SSC itself as a duty of States towards realizing the RTD through cooperation.

- The Declaration on the Right to Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary General's Report "Our Common Agenda", the BAPA+40 outcome document, and the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development collectively provide a unified vision for SSC to contribute towards sustainable development and the RTD. There is no doubt that SSC has enormous potential to, and in fact does, contribute to the realization of the RTD and thereby of all rights and freedoms. At the same time, the instrumental role of the RTD through its operationalization in SSC activities can greatly enhance their success.

Updates to the Study on Good Practices in Operationalizing the Right to Development in South-South Cooperation and Limitations thereto:

As discussed and stated earlier, the three projects mentioned above were/are at different stages of completion. The India-Antigua Barbuda project has come to complete fruition and there are no further phases planned to that project.

The South Africa-Comoros Islands project does have more phases to it. The project proposal for the upcoming phases has been submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the IBSA Board in New York. Unfortunately, progress has not been as anticipated despite genuine efforts from the Government of the Union of the Comoros, UNDP Comoros, and the South African Embassy because of various delays including change of personnel at the project office in Moheli Island.

The South Africa-Comoros Islands project :

Project Title: Sustaining and expanding the agricultural capacity in the Union of Comoros

Project Objective: To strengthen and expand agricultural capacity in the Union of Comoros.

Expected Results:

- Establishment of a sustainable agro-processing hub in Mohéli, utilizing solar energy or biogas.
- Increased productivity and competitiveness in existing small organic farms in Mohéli.
- Determination of soil potentials in agricultural production areas (2 per island).
- Facilitation of access to local, regional, and international markets.

- Establishment and resourcing of testing and training centers for post-harvest handling of fresh and processed foods.
- Strengthening of capacities of local institutions in applied agricultural research and commercialization of local products.
- Establishment and resourcing of an agriculture laboratory at INRAPE (soil and water analysis).
- Creation of nurseries, tunnels, and shade nets for research purposes.
- Establishment and resourcing of a certification and control center for organic agricultural products.

Funding Amount: US$ 1.8 million.

Primary Beneficiaries: Small-scale farmers, particularly women and youth, as well as local institutions involved in agricultural research and commercialization of local products across the three islands of the Union of Comoros.

The Brazil-Angola project

The Brazil-Angola project is prospering at the right pace with the completion of the social projects. The Angolan project has now progressed to the engineering and infrastructural development phase. The latest update of the project is as follows:

ESARO (UNICEF Office) took officials to Brazil for capacity building and training towards SSC, and Climate Change.

70 people (46 men and 24 women) trained so far. More women will be trained in coming phases as women act as agents of transformation for their respective communities.
The training so far has been in the domain of
- Environmental Education
- Community Engagement
- Engineering knowledge sharing on issues of Condominial (Sewerage) Sanitation, and
- Waste management and valorisation of waste

Combination of all 4 points mentioned above will be utilised in the community as the knowledge in this regard is emanating from the community itself. It's a community-led bottom-up approach to solving sanitation related infrastructure problems of the region.

6 different sets of people being trained:
- Governmental Institutions,
- CSOs and NGOs,
- Professional institute of Training for Trainers to develop sanitation manuals,
- Waste Pickers Association working at community level and training them to become future entrepreneurs in the sanitation sector,
- Training the community regarding sanitation and training for mitigation of methane gases and use of the gases for community benefits in the Ceara State,
- Catholic Universitates , and MOU is being signed with Lancaster University

Other bodies involved in this training process:

- Companhia de Água e Esgoto do Ceará (CAGECE) or Ceará Water and Sewage Company,
- Fundacão Nacional de Saúde (FUNASA) or the National Health Foundation of the Brazilian Ministry of Health,
- Secretary of Ceará State for entrepreneurship training.

Infrastructure
- TOR done; tendering process is being done.
- 80% social engineering, and 20% civil engineering
- Thus, more focus on 80% part in form of training. As people need to understand the benefit and only if they are on board, will the engineering process go ahead.
- TOR being explained for construction companies that the community has the final say, thus the TOR and the scope of work may change in the future.

Timeline Training:
Community engagement throughout the projects and adherence to the Social Behaviour and Communication aspect of UNICEF, Angola. Many members in the community are illiterate thus UNICEF needs to be present there all the time at all levels, assuage the doubts that may arise in people from the community, thus, constant presence is being ensured.

Proposed Evaluation Study – Brazil-Angola project

A proposed evaluation study is being planned for this Condominial project, contingent upon the fresh round of funding. The proposal for the evaluation study is as follows:

Introduction

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) as an operational model has been a successful one and is now firmly recognized as a complementary model of international cooperation towards realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the other hand, the Right to Development (RtD) as a normative framework for international cooperation has emerged in parallel to SSC since the Declaration on the Right to Development was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1986. RtD claims development is an inalienable human right and realisation of development in all its forms (economic, social, cultural, civil, and political) is the necessary condition for realising the SDGs. There are strong similarities between the operational principles of SSC and the normative principles of the RtD. Such an association between SSC and the RtD is not surprising as the origins of both lay in the shared histories and similar development challenges faced by the countries of the Global South in the post 1945 world order.

As the operationalization of SSC and TrC projects on the ground is different from traditional North-South Cooperation in principle, their evaluations and assessments are different as well. Context specific assessment, and evaluation along with subjectivity and interview based qualitative methods are best suited for evaluating SSC and TrC projects. This comes from the understanding that each of the SSC and TrC projects are unique and special, and no one size fits all approach of statistical and quantitative methods of evaluation, and a strictly objective analysis can capture all the facets and benefits accrued to the people on the ground through SSC and TrC projects.

Evaluation of SSC and TrC projects through the Normative Framework of the RtD

This pilot Condominium Sanitation project currently being operationalized in the peri-urban community of Mulenvos ((Municipality of Viana, Province of Luanda, Angola) was used as one of the case studies to study the operationalization of the SSC and TrC project through the normative framework of the Right to Development. The project is about 70-80% social engineering, and 20-30% consists of the physical infrastructure construction. As the social engineering part of the project is completed, it is an opportune time to conduct an evaluation study towards the project.

Methodologically, the normative principles of the RtD will be used to carry out this evaluation study. Southern evaluation processes and methods for SSC and TrC projects steeped in the RtD have potential advantages over traditional evaluation processes and methods.

The advantages of employing evaluation methodologies from the perspectives of Southern sensibilities are as follows:

- Most evaluation studies are initiated at the policy level and generally most projects of international cooperation are biased in favour of principles and standards as set and defined by the countries of the Global North. The issue of Northern parameters for evaluation of this project shall be minimal as it has already been observed in the study that this is not only an SSC project but, it also satisfies the norms and principles of the RtD. RtD, as has been explained previously considers development as a human right and is concerned with the 'what', and the 'how' questions of realising development. Thus, this evaluation study shall not limit itself to the Global North-centric norms and views of development, epistemology, and evaluation, and prioritize impartiality and credibility but will also consider the subjective experiences of the communities affected by development policies with the understanding of equity in all its forms over equality.

- The endeavour of this evaluation study will be to keep exclusion (explicit or implicit) in all its form to its minimum. Most North led evaluation studies have shown to depict bias and exclusion in the process of defining and disseminating evaluation Terms of Reference (ToRs), which are mostly led by donor agencies, and through recruitment practices that favour Global North evaluators, consultancy firms, and academic institutions. Evaluators of SSC projects on the other hand, must have the capacity to understand the complexities, intersectionalities, power-aware contexts, and various other challenges associated with the different stages of the project.

- Methodologically, this evaluation study will go beyond the quantitative, statistical, and linear approaches that are mostly employed by the researchers and evaluators of the Global North. The study will take into account qualitative, participatory, and interview-based approaches that would prioritize local knowledge, consider the demands/wants/aspirations of the people, and on the ground nuances which would place the beneficiaries at the centre of the project. In order to properly disseminate the evaluation study, the endeavour would be directed towards easy interpretation and made easy to consume even by readers who are not part of the evaluation community.

This condominial sanitation project between Brazil and Angola with the active participation of UNICEF Angola not only makes it an SSC project but also a significant example of triangular cooperation where two Southern countries have come together along with an intergovernmental

entity. The financing for the project has come from the IBSA Fund which is a conglomeration of India, Brazil, and South Africa who have coalesced their finances to carry out development related and poverty alleviating projects in various countries of the Global South. Furthermore, this project has provided a ripe opportunity to expand, broaden, and deepen the RtD literature as till now only limited evaluation study/research has been carried out where the SSC and TrC project has been evaluated through the normative framework of the RtD.

Also, two of the recommendations from the study were:

- **Conducting Human Rights Impact Assessment:** Operationalizing the RTD requires that SSC partner States, individually and jointly, conduct prior and ongoing assessments of the actual and potential risks and impacts of their SSC activities on the RTD and other human rights. Where relevant, this includes requiring contractors to conduct human rights impact assessments and due diligence. This will not only assist partner States in realizing a better and more sustainable project delivery but will also help them in course correction, if necessary.

- **Data Gathering, Monitoring, and Evaluation:** The RTD requires that data gathering, monitoring and evaluation of SSC activities is conducted as part of the discharge by States of their corresponding obligations, including the duty to cooperate. This framework helps channel and focus the objectives of such exercises towards an analysis of compliance with national development objectives and targets, and elimination of obstacles to development for the right-holders, as well as to verify a "fair distribution of benefits" of development through the SSC activities.

Thus, a potential study on evaluation is a logical extension of the this study.

Evaluation of the Condominial Project through the Normative Framework of the RtD

The modality for this condominial development cooperation project stands on three legs: Financial Aid, Technical and Technology Transfer, and Training and Capacity Building. The evaluation should be carried out of these three aspects of the project in sync with the principles of the RtD.

Financial Assistance	Technical and Tech Transfer	Training and Capacity Building
Quality of Aid: In most financial assistance, the focus is generally towards quantum of aid. RtD and SSC/TrC focuses on the quality of aid too which looks at the nature of financial aid in terms of grant, loan, and tied loan components.	**Nature and Essence of Technology Transfer:** Technology transfer, by reducing development inequalities within and among countries, communities, groups and individuals, is required to facilitate the realization of SDGs. This implies scaling up the transfer of publicly funded technologies to developing countries	**Adaptability:** The implementation of a training and capacity building project is influenced by its consistency with the natural, social, and economic situations of recipients. Adaptability or localization of projects through training and capacity building is of utmost importance and on many occasions is the difference between a success and failure of a project.
Nature of Aid: Most aid emanating from the global North and multilateral development banks under the rubric of NSC are	**Absorptive Capacity:** Due diligence must be exercised during technology transfer that the sophistication of the technology being transferred to the	**Implementation:** This means to invest human, material, and financial resources on capacity building, such as through hiring

contingent upon meeting certain conditions. RtD and SSC/TrC rejects the idea of political and/or macroeconomic conditionalities.	partner country has the capacity to be fully integrated and absorbed to bring full benefits to the people on the ground. Associated adaptability, localization, and capacity building initiatives shall be carried out to make the technology transfer as smooth as possible.	trainers, training, and renting training facilities and sites. A proper training module must be conceptualised in conjunction with active interactions of relevant stakeholders and keeping in mind the local realities.
Financial Sustainability: It is the duty of the provider country to make sure that the terms of financial assistance provided is not so heavy that it cripples the long-term debt sustainability of the partner country.	**Equality based Transfer:** Demand driven assistance in SSC and TrC is based on horizontality and equality where relevant and required technologies for the project in question are shared freely and fully with the partner countries without any stated intentions of material and financial reciprocity.	**Output and Outcome:** This is the "what" and "how" question of the RtD. Enumeration of not only the number of people trained shall be recorded but a nuanced enumeration of people trained in form of gender, age, caste, class, race, tribes, ableism associated numbers shall also be recorded.
Combination of Bi/Multilateral Cooperation: Successful development cooperation project activates all possible avenues for accruing benefits for the people on ground. Combing the bi/regional/multilateral financial assistance with the operational expertise of multilateral and/or intergovernmental org. increases the chances of success.	**Special and Differential Treatment:** This is preferential market access principle which grants special and differential treatment to partner countries whereby provider countries may relax tariffs on import of goods and services from the former, as well as accept longer transition times for partner countries.	**Impact:** This means the immediate and subsequent influences brought by the projects to local economic and social development in form of solution to a problem, job creation, and other intended and unintended benefits and/or consequences accrued during the project's lifecycle.
Cooperation with Stakeholders: Successful development cooperation projects involve all the relevant stakeholders actively before, during, and after the project. Involvement of policy makers, CSOs/NGOs, academic/research institutions, private sectors help toward successful implementation of the project.	**Compulsory Licensing, and Flexibilities in IPR and Patents:** IPR models of patents and trade secrets is an impediment towards the realization of the RtD and SDGs. Provider country must make sure that the partner country in SSC and TrC have access to technology and the technology transfer takes place within the principles of international cooperation and solidarity.[89]	**Sustainability and Long-term benefits:** Training and capacity building should be seen on temporal lines. Sustainability of a project emanates from the understanding that the beneficiaries will be able to run and continue with the project even when the providers have left the stage after the handing over of the project to the local beneficiaries.

Evaluating a project through the principles of the RtD involves assessing whether the project aligns with and contributes to the realization of the RtD as outlined in international law and policy. The Right to Development emphasizes principles such as participation, non-discrimination, equity, and accountability.

- **Define the Right to Development Principles:**
  Any potential evaluation study will begin by clear articulation of principles of the RtD, including participation, non-discrimination, equity, and accountability.

- **Review Project Objectives and Design:**

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[89] The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of science and its applications (art. 15).

The study will examine the project's objectives, design, and overall approach to analyse if they align with the principles of the RtD.

- **Stakeholder Analysis:**
  The study will identify all project stakeholders, including beneficiaries and affected communities, and assess the extent to which they have been involved in project planning, implementation, and decision-making processes.

- **Non-Discrimination Assessment:**
  The study will analyse whether the project has addressed and reduced disparities and discrimination, particularly among marginalized or vulnerable groups. The study will investigate if project benefits have been distributed equitably.

- **Equity and Inclusion Evaluation:**
  The study will evaluate the project's impact on reducing inequalities, promoting social inclusion, and enhancing the well-being of the recipients including disadvantaged groups. It will also assess whether the project has created an enabling environment for all to benefit.

- **Participation Assessment:**
  The study will examine whether the project has facilitated meaningful participation by all stakeholders in key decision-making processes. It will also assess whether their views and concerns have been adequately considered and incorporated.

- **Accountability Review:**
  The study will Investigate the project's mechanisms for ensuring accountability, transparency, and addressing grievances. It will also assess if there is a clear framework for holding project actors responsible for their actions.

- **Data and Impact Analysis:**
  The evaluation study will review available data and evidence to assess the project's impact on development. It will consider socio-economic indicators, living standards, access to services, and overall well-being to measure the project's contributions to development.

- **Feedback Mechanisms Assessment:**
  The study will evaluate the project's feedback mechanisms, such as community consultations, complaints systems, and reporting processes. The study will assess if these mechanisms have been effective in promoting participation and accountability.

- **Documentation and Reporting:**
  The evaluation study will review project documentation, M&E reports, project report, and other relevant records to assess how the project's adherence to the RtD principles has been documented and reported.

- **Community Perceptions and Feedback:**
  The study will collect feedback from project beneficiaries and stakeholders through individual interviews, and group interviews to gauge their perceptions of the project's alignment with the RtD principles.

- **Analysis and Recommendations:**
  The study will analyse all the information collected and identify areas where the project has succeeded or fallen short in adhering to the RtD principles. Based on this analysis, it will make recommendations for improvement, if required.

- **Communication and Advocacy:**
  The study will share the findings and recommendations with project stakeholders, funding agencies, and the broader community to advocate for changes and improvements that will bring more projects in line with the RtD principles.

Conclusion:

Evaluating a project through the lens of the RtD principles will ensure that development initiatives are not only measured by their specific goals but also by their broader impacts on promoting human rights, social justice, and inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. It underscores the importance of empowering individuals and communities to participate in, contribute to and benefit from development processes, in keeping with the RtD.