

CONCEPT NOTE

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RBAs Joint Celebration of the 2025 UN Day for South-South Cooperation

Webinar on “South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Financing for Food Security and Nutrition”

1. Objectives

This high-level webinar aims to:

- Promote a forward-looking dialogue on the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in supporting countries to access and deploy diverse funding options, including through policy exchange, peer learning and institutional partnerships;
- Explore practical experiences and lessons learned on mobilizing and applying new funding mechanisms for food security and nutrition.

2. Agenda

Date: 11 September 2025

Duration: 90 minutes

Format: Virtual

Language: English

| Time | Session | Speaker(s) |
|---------------|--|--|
| 15:00 – 15:05 | Opening Remarks | SSTC Director from one of the RBAs |
| 15:05 – 15:55 | Panel Discussion – “How can SSTC help countries identify, access, and scale new funding mechanisms to accelerate progress toward SDG 1 and SDG 2?” | Government representatives from countries from the Global South and a representative of an International Financial Institution |
| 15:55 – 16:25 | Open Discussion / Q&A | All participants (moderated) |
| 16:25 – 16:30 | Closing Remarks and Next Steps | SSTC Director from one of the RBAs |

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3. Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness among governments, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), development partners, and private actors of how SSTC can support access to and application of new funding mechanisms;
- Concrete recommendations on how Rome-based Agencies (RBA)-supported SSTC can enable the design, alignment and implementation of national financing strategies in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2.

4. Background and Strategic Relevance

The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, observed on 12 September, commemorates the adoption of the **1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA)** and highlights the crucial role of SSTC in advancing inclusive development and SDGs. **The RBAs** - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - have a longstanding tradition of jointly marking this day by showcasing country-led innovations and facilitating high-level dialogue on food security, nutrition and rural transformation.

The 2025 celebration comes amid growing pressure on development financing, as Development Assistance (ODA) declines and countries seek new funding mechanisms¹ —including blended finance, debt swaps, and partnerships with the private sector and philanthropic actors. In this evolving context, SSTC is a key enabler, helping countries overcome challenges such as limited institutional capacity, information asymmetries and regulatory barriers through policy dialogue, peer learning and technical assistance.

This year's joint celebration webinar builds on recent global discussions, including the [Sevilla Outcome Document of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development](#) (Sevilla FfD 4), which calls for a more inclusive and development-focused financial architecture and greater use of tools such as debt swaps and blended finance. The [Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger](#)—a government-led platform engaging knowledge and financial partners such as IFIs, UN agencies, and foundations—offers a practical model of how SSTC can mobilize and align diverse funding streams and stakeholders to support national strategies for SDG 1 and 2.

In parallel, the [22nd High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#) reinforces the call for stronger UN support to unlock new funding avenues, positioning SSTC as a core modality. The webinar will also inform the development of the new UN System-Wide Strategy on SSTC, anticipated to be finalized by December 2025, with a focus on enhanced resource mobilization for SSTC and through SSTC.

The RBAs are well placed to support countries in exploring and applying such new funding avenues. For example, WFP promotes debt swaps, forecast-based financing, and climate risk insurance. FAO partners with the Green Climate Fund to design blended finance for climate-resilient agriculture and supports countries through its Investment Centre to structure concessional and private capital models. IFAD, through tailored models such as the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), the Agri-Business Capital (ABC) Fund and the Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM), helps to open up financial access for small-scale producers and rural micro-enterprises.

¹ The term “new funding mechanisms” is used as a broad umbrella to encompass both innovative and more traditional financing approaches applied in new contexts. It includes, but is not limited to, “innovative finance mechanisms” as defined by the OECD (2009).

Together, the RBAs bring:

- A strong track record in SSTC facilitation;
- Technical expertise and deep country presence;
- Complementary mandates across food, agriculture and rural development;
- Convening power to foster triangular partnerships and scale up local solutions through co-investment.

5. Target Audience

- **Member States:** Permanent Representatives to the RBAs and the United Nations, Ministers of Agriculture, Finance, Planning, Social Protection and Environment.
- **IFIs:** Multilateral development banks, regional development banks, national development banks, bilateral finance institutions.
- **UN System:** United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and SSTC focal points from relevant agencies (e.g. SSTC Inter-agency mechanism).
- **Triangular Partners:** Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Portugal, Spain, Italy, etc.
- **Private Sector:** Financial institutions, green finance actors, impact investors.
- **Think Tanks and Research Institutions:** Especially from the Global South with expertise in public finance, SSTC and innovative development financing.