



South-South Cooperation

Trade & Environment Priorities in the Arab Region

Opportunities for South-South Cooperation

UNEP Regional Office for West Asia

11 – 13 November 2007



South-South Cooperation

Strategic and operational approaches

in the context of UNEP

What is South-South Cooperation?

.....interaction between two or more developing countries that pursue their individual or collective goals through cooperative exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how.....

South-South Cooperation is about Long-term cooperation

3

SSC – Key features

- SSC will continue to be goal of developing countries
- Has been hampered by various constraints
- But has also registered significant achievements in:
 - *finance*
 - *trade, industry & business*
 - *development*
 - *science, research, education, information technology*
 - *transport & related services*
 - *food security*
- Environment not accorded priority - but now major focus area

4

South-South Cooperation

Major drivers:

- Common challenges & circumstances in the South
- Growth in regional cooperation mechanisms
- Decrease in official ODA
- Growth in critical mass of expertise in the south
- Cost-effective mobilization of expertise
- Donor community support to SSC

5

SSC - Key Functions

Application of South-South solutions

- Capacity building, training
- Research and technology transfer
- Information and knowledge exchange
- Networking
- Advisory support and services
- Technical cooperation
- Resource mobilisation

6

SSC - global support

- Group of 77 and China
- OECD
- G-8
- UN summit
- UN system (UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCO, etc.)
- Global & regional fora (declarations), e.g., LAS

7

South-South Cooperation

Current status (UNEP)

- Development of strategic & operational guidelines
- Integration of SSC in UNEP Programmes of Work
- Initiation of start-up SSC projects
- Development of a Clearing-House Mechanism
- Partnership development (UN, MEAs, etc.)
- Liaison with regional cooperation mechanisms
- Comprehensive outreach effort

8

Context for South-South Cooperation

The Bali Strategic Plan (BSP)

- Provide a *coherent umbrella platform* and systematic mechanism for enhanced national environmental *capacity building (CB)* and *technology support (TS)*.

The South-South Cooperation (SSC)

- Provide *principle mechanisms* for coordination and implementation of BSP: *CB* and *TS*.

9

South-South Cooperation - UNEP

Strategic direction/operational thrust

1. Operationalise SSC for delivery of TS and CB
2. Support initiatives with demonstratable results
3. Harness potential of regional institutions
4. Identify & build partnerships with "*pivotal countries*"
5. Advocacy approaches for promotion of SSC

10

South-South Cooperation

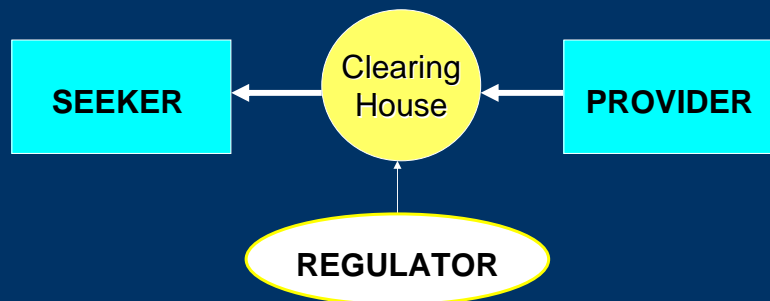
Strategic direction/operational thrust *(contd.)*

6. Develop and strengthen focused networks
7. Develop linkages with other SSC initiatives
8. Involve civil society, science & research
9. Promote triangular cooperation

11

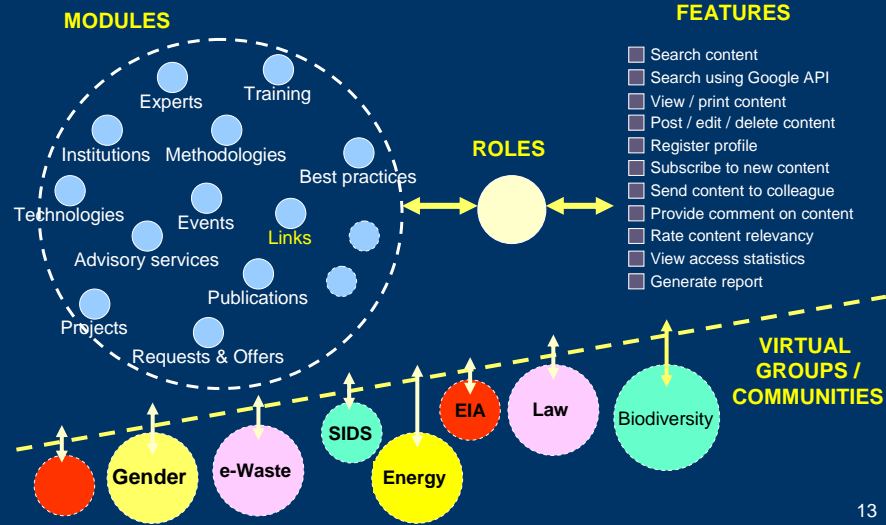
Clearing-House Mechanism for SSC

to bring together *seekers* and *providers* of goods, services, and information, thus *matching demand* and *supply*, regulated under a set of information flow mechanisms.



12

Clearing-House Architecture



South-South Cooperation

SSC & Trade and Environment

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab Region

Potential entry point & context:

Regional programme for trade and environment capacity building in the Arab region

15

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab Region

Priorities for action

- Market access
- Competitiveness
- Dispute resolution
- Production and consumption
- South-South trade liberalization
- Production, imports & environmental sustainability

16

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab Region

Area of skills development

- Governance
- Policy analysis
- Enabling institutions
- Negotiations
- Information dissemination
- Private sector development

17

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab Region

delivery of south-specific solutions

- Capacity building (*training, attachments, etc.*)
- Research & technology transfer
- Information & knowledge exchange
- Networking (*institutions/centres of excellence*)
- Advisory support & services
- Best practices, case studies
- Long-term technical cooperation
- Partnerships with other SSC initiatives

18

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab region

Potential approaches

- Identify SSC-specific capacity building needs
- Identify available South-specific expertise, experiences, best practices, etc. to meet needs
- Identify opportunities & practical mechanisms to facilitate & maximise SSC expertise.
- Institutional arrangements (coordination & consultation, implementation)
- Sustaining SSC initiatives

19

SSC - Trade & Environment in Arab region

Current opportunities

- Inter-regional SSC within the Arab Region (via LAS)
- Intra-Regional SSC:
 - LAS-OIC
 - Arab-China SSC
 - Arab-South America SSC
 - Arab-India SSC (still evolving)
 - Others

20

Thank you