

Guiding Questions for the e-Discussion

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This e-discussion is intended to encourage inputs and discussions which are able to contribute to the regional and thematic consultations that are being undertaken for the HDR 2021-2022. This e-discussion invites contributions and insights from Southern-based think tanks and academia on the issue of inequality and uncertainty that will feed into and shape the HDR. The e-discussion will focus on the following guiding questions:

1. How can just and inclusive transformations be brought about for the global South? What kind of metrics are needed to guide just and inclusive transformations in the global South?

The Global South should adhere to the idea of people-centred development. Building inclusive transformation through the "three pillars" of public policy, namely (a) the policy of pro-poor economic growth, with equal opportunities for employment, market participation, small and micro businesses, and equitable access to natural resources for everyone; (b) Inclusive social development policies that give everyone equal access to basic education, health care and social protection, and to eliminate social exclusion due to personal identity; (c) Eco-friendly environmental policies to improve living conditions for everyone and every community.

2. What are the spatial and socioeconomic implications of technology-driven transitions? and more specifically, in the context of the Global South?

Reaching across every industry platform, digital technology has the potential to unlock developmental capacities essential to the expansion of trade and regional integration. It has the potential to increase accessibility and inclusion of various vulnerable groups in society, including poor communities, women, and youth in the Global South.

South-South Digital Cooperation is not simply SSC involving digital technologies, but is a cross-border, cross-regional and cross-sector integration development model based on digital technology. This cross-border integration leverages data as the key production factor and platform business models as the key industrial organization model. The two-sided market has changed the traditional one-way delivery method of the value chain by promoting two-way interactions and even network interactions in the global value chain, thereby innovating new values. This latest approach to value creation, like SS&TrC, provides fresh impetus and new methods for sustainable development goals. Several case studies of platforms generated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have illustrated the prospects of digital technology and platforms under SS&TrC.

3. How can novel technologies be leveraged to support the development of sound metrics in the context of Anthropocene uncertainty?

To accelerate the dissemination and inclusiveness of digital technologies and services in the global South, a series of actions to promote SSDC should be adopted at global, regional, sub-regional, national, and even city levels. At the global level, strategies, and actions to encourage SSDC should be adopted under the United Nations system to promote digital infrastructure, talent training and capacity building in the global South. The strengthening of capacity building of regional and sub-regional institutions and organizations, the promotion of cross-regional interoperability of digital infrastructures and public services, the improvement of standards for digital technology cooperation among developing countries, the facilitation of seamless connectivity and the strengthening of inter-regional SSDC are all actions that should be adopted at regional and sub-regional levels. At the national level, SSDC requires national planning, policy adoption, regulations and systems that are conducive to digital technology cooperation among developing nations and which promote cross-border and cross-sector integration of digital technology development to contribute to the shared development achievements of human society.

4. How can institutions (Governments? Civil societies? NGOs, Private sector, etc.?) protect rights and empower people, especially groups at higher risk to be left behind, such as women? How South-South cooperation and solidarity be supported as a coping mechanism for uncertainty and inequality?

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation in the ICT and digital economy fields, through various forms of support, such as funding, training and technological systems, needs to be institutionalized so that donor countries and multilateral organizations better facilitate South-South initiatives and thereby promote long-term sustainable development outcomes.

Digital technology is transforming the global economy on a grand scale. It offers great opportunities for structural transformation and fostering of inclusive development. However, many of their counterparts in the global South lack the appropriate infrastructure and capacity to mainstream digital technologies and services in efforts toward contributing to global value chains and even within the success story Southern countries these factors may be lacking in other sectors of the economy. Therefore, attention must be paid to gender equality and inclusiveness in South-South Digital Cooperation.

5. What good practices to motivating communities to act as a collective, for instance through social movements or community initiatives, exist in the global South? Are there good practices and/or lessons learned of technology-driven transitions that could be leveraged?

Alibaba Case presents an example of a new model of improving the efficiency of South-South cooperation by linking multiple resources through a digital platform. In response to the

COVID-19 pandemic that created an unprecedented collective threat to human life, social cohesion and economies, a public welfare platform, the global MediXchange for Combating COVID-19, was launched based on Big Data and AI. The platform went online in a very short time, providing services across the world. More detail see FCSSC & UNOSSC (2021) , *South-South and Triangular Cooperation in a Digital World: Fresh Impetus and New Approaches*.