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# **Trends and Opportunities in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Azerbaijan**





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**United Nations Development Programs in Azerbaijan and  
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation**

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

The Republic of Azerbaijan (further Azerbaijan) is a country located in the South Caucasus, situated at the crossroads between east and west. It is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south.

After gaining independence in 1991, the country experienced a war with Armenia, which contributed to a decline in the economy, associated with the collapse of a common Soviet economic space. In order to solve its problems, Azerbaijan has relied on its rich reservoirs of oil, which is its main export commodity. The high prices of oil in the last decade, coupled with foreign direct investment, triggered economic reforms that resulted in the rapid economic growth of the country as significant achievements were made in the development of infrastructure, social welfare, public service delivery, telecommunications and more. The development of the non-oil sector, in particular, the national industry and agriculture, and the formation of an oil-independent economy is a matter of concern and special attention of the Government.

Azerbaijan has taken steps to solve its social and economic problems through numerous commercial and development projects in cooperation with traditional and new partners, both from developed and developing countries.

In the Nairobi Outcome document, it is emphasized that developing countries tend to share common views on national development strategies and priorities when faced with similar development challenges. The proximity of experience is therefore a key catalyst for promoting capacity development in developing countries and, in this regard, accentuates the principles of South-South cooperation. It is important to enhance South-South cooperation in order to achieve its full development potential.

According to the United Nations, South-South Cooperation (SSC) is defined as “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and through collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for their individual and/or mutual benefit.”

Complementing South-South cooperation initiatives is Triangular Cooperation (TC), which is defined as “collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems, as well as other form of support.”

Further clarifying Azerbaijan’s priorities and strategic preferences vis-à-vis the potential benefits that South-South cooperation (which is referred to as “East-East” in the region of Europe and CIS) can bring about, as well as the country’s level of preparedness to pursue such priorities and preferences, is an important step towards unleashing the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Azerbaijan, the ECIS region and beyond. Therefore, a participatory stocktaking exercise and an initial policy dialogue on South-South (East-East) Cooperation in Azerbaijan have been conducted.

### Objectives of Stocktaking, Its Scope and Methodology

Stocktaking was done to identify relevant South-South (East-East) Cooperation frameworks, objectives, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of individual line ministries and relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Azerbaijan.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the following tasks were accomplished:

- A desk review of the current national institutional and policy frameworks for SS&TC in Azerbaijan;
- An online survey was done through SurveyMonkey in order to collect preliminary quantitative data to analyse trends and opportunities in SS&TC;
- Eight meetings with the relevant government institutions that have the most active agenda on SS&TC, namely the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the State Agency for Public Service and Innovations under the President of Republic of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and ADA University, were held in order to determine the scope and types of SS&TC activities and identify possible areas for future cooperation.

The findings of the assignment are based on documentary sources collected, analysis of the survey responses and individual interviews conducted with public sector stakeholders.

In light of the focus on stocktaking of the public sector and a selected number of stakeholders interviewed, the report does not claim to present a comprehensive picture of SS&TC in Azerbaijan. Instead, it offers highlights of key trends and opportunities for cooperation that can benefit Southern/Eastern countries.

## II. THE OVERVIEW OF SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN AZERBAIJAN

### A. TRENDS IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

In its foreign policy, Azerbaijan pursues a path of mutually beneficial and effective international cooperation and dialogue through its participation and membership in global and regional organizations. Cooperation with Southern/Eastern countries occurs on a bilateral basis through various international platforms and initiatives, such as:

- European neighborhood: the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Program of international cooperation on oil and gas transportation to Europe (INOGATE) and the European Partnership Program;
- With post-Soviet and neighbouring countries: the Commonwealth of Independent States, GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development;
- Cross-regional partnership: the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme and the Istanbul process;
- Muslim countries: the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB);
- The Turkic Council for cooperation between the Turkic speaking countries.

Expanding its areas of interest, Azerbaijan has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on granting the partner dialogue status to Azerbaijan and expressed its support in the Silk Road Economic Belt project initiated by China.

Azerbaijan's self-identification in the world is expressed in the country's principal development concept, "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future," (Azerbaijan 2020) adopted in 2012. As it is emphasized, "while Azerbaijan continues to deepen relations with key partners, it also seeks closer political and economic cooperation with countries in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa, where the Azerbaijan International Development Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also implements humanitarian projects."

In line with the development concept, the United Nations Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) for 2016-2020 conveys the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) support to Azerbaijan "in realizing the role the country would like to play in the United Nations and globally, finding solutions to issues of global concern and providing development assistance to other countries."

### B. AZERBAIJAN'S ROLE IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AS A PROVIDER AND AS A RECIPIENT

#### A) Assistance provider

In 2011, Azerbaijan consolidated its assistance efforts in addressing social problems around the world under the umbrella of a single agency by establishing the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since its establishment, AIDA has been providing support to Southern countries in two directions: humanitarian aid and international development assistance. Starting in 2012, Azerbaijan delivered humanitarian aid to Palestine, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Philippines, Cuba, Panama, Burkina Faso and other Southern countries to cope with consequences of natural disasters.

As to development assistance, AIDA has been supporting more than 30 Southern countries with poverty reduction, development of science, culture and health sectors, wider application of information-communication technologies, efficient use of energy resources, various scholarship programs and implementation of other development programs.

To deliver assistance to Southern countries, AIDA closely cooperates with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), OIC, IDB and its national counterpart in Colombia, the Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC Colombia).

Development assistance from Azerbaijan to Southern countries occurs on the level of other national stakeholders interviewed, too, with examples given below in the Section C.

## B) Assistance recipient

According to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of [the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#), as a recipient Azerbaijan received Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the members of the DAC, multilateral institutions and non-DAC countries in amount of USD\$215,180,000 in 2014.

From Southern countries, members of DAC South Korea disbursed assistance of \$16 million for social infrastructure development.

From non-DAC Southern countries, there is evidence of Poland providing assistance to Azerbaijan in development of rural areas, environmental protection, support of internally displaced people and public administration reform.

Further in 2012, Poland implemented three projects totalling about PLN 450,000 on implementing elements of effective and efficient agricultural advisory services, professional and social activation of the population, development of innovative technologies based on alternative sources of energy and energy-saving technologies and new mechanisms of local community cooperation for the sake of environmental protection, elimination of threats of contamination with toxic substances and hazardous waste. About \$145,300 was disbursed in 2012 as small grants to implement four projects.

In 2013, Azerbaijan received Polish development assistance centred on strengthening and increasing the number of associations of small agricultural producers, the professionalization of the marketing system of agricultural products and agricultural consulting for the amount of PLN 120,000. Additionally, five projects were undertaken in the framework of small grants for \$83,000. The same year, Poland invited Azerbaijani officials to participate in the next edition of the Eastern Partnership Academy of Public Administration.

## C. GOOD AZERBAIJANI PRACTICES IN AND FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Owing to the political will and measures introduced by the Government and supported by substantial foreign and domestic investments and assistance, Azerbaijan made steady progress in governance practices and public services, human capital development, technology transfer and management and other areas. Below is a summary of good practices in Azerbaijan that could benefit Southern countries.

### A) Good Governance and Public Service

Over the last 10 years, Azerbaijan has been implementing comprehensive reforms in public administration and in public service delivery aimed at increasing efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public services.



In 2012, within the framework of the reform of public administration, the President of Azerbaijan initiated “ASAN xidmət” (ASAN service), a technology-oriented, transparent, accessible, citizen-oriented and corruption-free public service delivery mechanism. Run by the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan, “ASAN xidmət” works as a “one-stop shop” model offering more than 250 services from 10 government institutions and about 25 groups of private companies in a single space. Within four years of activity, nine “ASAN xidmət” centres were established across the country, processing more than 10 million applications from Azerbaijani citizens and foreign nationals in the country with a satisfaction rate of 98

In remote areas, where ASAN centres are not yet available, these services are being delivered via Mobile “ASAN xidmət,” or well-equipped buses. “ASAN xidmət” also offers an option of public service delivery to a citizen’s door for an extra cost through Intracity Mobile Services. This option is free for people with disabilities and in need of assistance and for children with limited health conditions.

“ASAN xidmət” is the recipient of a United Nations Public Service Award as a first-place winner in the category of “Improving the Delivery of Public Services” for its outstanding achievements.

To accelerate the electronization of public services under the umbrella of “ASANxidmət,” in January 2015, an online payment system, “ASANPay” was set up. It ensures the electronic delivery of administrative penalty decisions to citizens and allows them to make online payments of fines related to penalties and court rulings. As part of its e-government mandate, “ASAN xidmət” has also been entrusted with building online “E-License” and “ASAN Visa” systems.

As a holder of the United Nations Public Service Award, the best practice of Azerbaijan has received the attention of countries wishing to modernize their public service delivery systems based on the “ASAN xidmət” model. Delegations from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran and Albania recently visited Azerbaijan, whereas representatives of “ASAN xidmət” were invited to make presentations about the model in Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, Turkey, Serbia, Italy, United Kingdom, United States, Morocco and more, as well as to UNDP and the World Bank.

In 2006, with support of UNDP and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CSC) launched an integrated recruitment system that provides citizens with equal entry opportunities to civil service through access to information on openings in public institutions and to the testing bank; computerised examination process; video recordings of and external monitoring of interviews; and a participatory appeal process for candidates in cases of disagreement with results.

To develop the e-recruitment system for the public service system and improve its operability, the CSC learned from the experiences of Philippines, Turkey and Kazakhstan. Now the system attracts attention from Southern countries as a model for replication. Delegations from Afghanistan, Turkey and Cambodia visited the CSC to familiarize themselves with the system.

## B) Education

ADA University was established in 2006 as an educational facility for future diplomats and now offers a broad range of studies on diplomacy, public and international affairs, business, humanities and sciences, information technologies and system engineering.

The university has an extensive programme of cooperation with Southern partners. It opened its doors to international students and researchers from both traditional partners in the region, such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as from new partnering states like China, Egypt, Iran and Viet Nam. In 2009, it started an exchange programme that involves scholars and practitioners from leading universities in China, Turkey, Hungary, Korea, Lithuania, Slovakia, Latvia and Israel. Today, the university offers fellowships and scholarships for foreign Ph.D. students and researchers, allocating around \$12,000-\$15,000 per student annually.

It also has a special program of cooperation with Afghanistan dedicated to building the capacity of Afghani officials in law and governance. Each year, 20 officials undergo training, and since the launch of the initiative about 100 officials have been equipped with new skills and knowledge.

The university also offers Caspian Basin Studies, a certificate program that gives an opportunity for foreign diplomats and civil servants to explore and study in-depth about the region's diverse and rich history and culture, demographic makeup, ethnic and territorial conflicts, trade and economic affairs, and issues of geopolitics and regional security.



## C) Labour and Social Protection

To transform the old system of organization and the management of labour market and social care inherited from the Soviet Union, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, in collaboration with other government agencies, developed and implemented a number of innovations that can be shared with Southern countries:

TSERAS, an online subsystem of medical and social expertise and rehabilitation. This solution allows citizens to apply online to be assessed for disability without contacting officials and submitting paperwork, as the system derives such information from E-Government. After examined, results are included in the TSERAS in real-time. Citizens also can obtain this information through the E-Government service.

VENTAS, the integrated electronic subsystem for targeted social aid applying and assigning. This gives low-income families access to social aid through an online application, special e-government information stands or via post offices. VENTAS ensures automated handling of applications for targeted social aid and consideration of life conditions of families, which are assessed in online mode by special software integrated with information systems and databases of more than 20 agencies. The decision to assign aid is also made by the system, therefore eliminating contacts between applicants and officials. Targeted social aid is paid in noncash form, also ensuring transparency and anti-corruption.

*The system of mandatory e-notification on employment contracts.* These have helped to address informal employment, ensure payment of compulsory social insurance fees and protect employees' rights. Under the new system, an employer is responsible for submitting an employment contract notice upon entering into contract, making changes or terminating it. The employers can hire the E-Government services on the portals [www.e-gov.az](http://www.e-gov.az) and [www.mlsp.gov](http://www.mlsp.gov). The system registers and notifies applicants within one working day after the submission; then the employment contract enters into force. Along with enabling employees to monitor legalization of their labour relations, the system allows employees to benefit from an e-service called "statement of employment" for electronic submission of statements to relevant agencies (embassies, banks, etc) with no interference from the employer.

*The automated system of pension appointment through a single call center.* The system, introduced in 2013, enables eligible persons to get their labour pension granted in automated mode without having to collect documents and contacting officials. Upon receiving the request with ID, the system responds immediately with information about pensions due and the time and address to pick up a pension plastic card.

## d) Youth Empowerment



In its reform process, Azerbaijan relies on youths' input to build a foundation for more participatory from young people.

Since its launch, "ASAN xidmət" has attracted young people to engage in public activities through volunteering, and has facilitated the development of skills that are needed for career building within the "ASAN School" volunteers program. In order to facilitate employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate ASAN volunteers in building their professional careers, "ASAN xidmət" launched a website called ASAN Kadr ([www.asankadr.az](http://www.asankadr.az)) in March 2015. It links young and experienced people with distinctive work potential and public institutions and private companies.

In 2015, ASAN volunteers created a new initiative called ASAN Mektub (ASAN Letter) granting the wishes of children in need by placing their letters on a specialised site [www.asanmektub.az](http://www.asanmektub.az) to let anyone turn the dream of a child into reality. The ASAN volunteer, acting as a messenger, delivers a gift to a child in any part of Azerbaijan, while a photo of the delivery is sent to citizens via e-mail or other means. This practice builds a foundation for a sense of social responsibility in youth.

## E) Justice and Rule of Law

In 2006, within the framework of the Eastern Partnership program, the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Council of Europe launched a system of selecting judges.

The new system of selecting judges introduced many institutional and structural changes, including the Judges Selection Committee, comprised mostly of judges; a multistage procedure, which includes tests, exams and interviews, long-term training and internships in the courts; examination in a single auditorium under monitoring by local and international observers and mass media; and online broadcasting of exams.

In the new system, candidates who want to be judges can learn from the experience of Southern partners. For example, almost 160 candidates for judges took part in two-week seminars in the Academy of Justice of Turkey, which included not only theoretical studies but also participation in legal proceedings in courts.

A new generation of judges that encompasses almost 60 percent of the country's judicial body was selected under the new system.

With a view to strengthen collaboration with civil society and to ensure systematic impartial monitoring of the penitentiary system, in 2006, the Ministry of Justice opened the penitentiary facilities to the public by establishing the Public Committee on Supervision of the Execution of Sentences. In order to select members of the Public Committee, the Selection Committee, comprised of representatives of relevant government and non-government organizations, was set up. The selection process enjoyed public scrutiny. From 16 non-governmental organizations and human rights activists that applied to the call, and after consideration of submitted programmes and proposals, eight heads of human right organizations were selected to be members of the Public Committee, with a right to free access to the penitentiary facilities.

To enhance public transparency in rehabilitation of inmates, the Ministry of Justice has institutionalised participation of public in the process of consideration of prisoners' applications to grant parole from serving sentence.

These best practices can be of interest for ex-Soviet countries to study for similar penitentiary systems, as there is demand in Azerbaijan for its experience and expertise on probation and mediation in the justice system.

## F) Mine Action

Since 2008, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) has been implementing the Mine Action Assistance Programme to support its counterpart in Afghanistan, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). ANAMA contributed to the capacity-building of Afghani personnel through training in Azerbaijan and Afghanistan on ANAMA mine action programme, operations and other related activities

In 2009, ANAMA initiated the integration of Mine Risk Education (MRE) into a programme in local schools in Afghanistan to raise mine-risk awareness among children. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan and ANDMA, ANAMA ensured the translation in schoolbooks on MRE in Azerbaijani schools into the Dari language; produced and distributed 24,000 student books and 1,500 manuals for teachers; and provided methodical training for 800 Afghani teachers. The Ministry of Education of Afghanistan has officially integrated MRE into school curricula.

In addition to MRE, ANAMA implements Mine Victims Assistance through medical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of mine victims and their families into society. In 2013-2014 in cooperation with the International Organization on Migration (IOM) and the non-government organization Chirag and with support of UNDP, ANAMA provided assistance to at least 50 mine victims and their families in five regional districts by offering financial (loans) and non-financial (business skills development) services to help them earn a livelihood, improve the standard of living and become participatory community members.

ANAMA has a longstanding partnership with the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. By 2015, ANAMA provided 14 trainings tailored for its Georgian partners.

On request of the Government of Turkey, ANAMA trained Turkish defence industry engineers and commercial companies to train civilians for clearing the Turkish-Syrian border from land mines. Apart from that, ANAMA has been contracted to conduct quality control in Turkey to make sure that land is free of explosive devices and safe for users.

ANAMA instructors teach courses in Azerbaijani, English, Russian and Turkish and the agency's centres have excellent training facilities catering to international partners.

Azerbaijan's experience in demining and non-military mine action can be of particular interest for Southern countries undergoing the restoration of peace in mine-affected areas.

## III. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Given its geographic location and rising opportunities from new partnerships, Azerbaijan is determined to become an important international actor and active SSC partner.

The high-level government officials are aware of the SSC concept and have confirmed interest in advancing SS&TC in the country; nevertheless, according to the stakeholders, limited access to relevant information, including knowledge about global, regional/sub-regional SSC information platforms and resources should be addressed.

There is a room to address this challenge and enhance SS&TC by employing SSC approaches and services, for instance, by using WIDE Roster Centre – an online Web-enabled system of the Global South-South Development Academy (GSSD Academy) gathering information on experts and institutions in developing countries of the South is another opportunity to engage Azerbaijani experts in the global and regional knowledge sharing.

In its goal to turn the economy away from oil dependence the Government of Azerbaijan considers improving the agriculture sector and providing support for it in line with international experience. This will stimulate the intensive and effective development of the agrarian sector, a priority concern. UNAPF also supports need for strengthened agricultural productivity and heightened food security in the country.

These needs can be addressed through partnerships by applying SSC tools. Azerbaijan can benefit from cooperation with Southern/Eastern countries who participate in the joint UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia. This initiative supports knowledge exchange on, among other things, in biotechnology, management of farmer based organizations and sustainable water resources that correspond to priorities specified in Azerbaijan, 2020 such as increase of the productive capability of existing agrarian processing enterprises as a result of the application of modern technologies, improved scientific support and capacity building of staff in the agrarian sector, the intensive development of various agricultural spheres, to support major grain-growing farms.

## IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### FINDINGS

Azerbaijan can offer its vast knowledge and expertise accumulated in good governance, ICT/E-Government, social protection reform, civil service, youth participation and mine action in a South-South dialogue. Being a secular state with a Muslim-majority population and traditions of religious tolerance, Azerbaijan can share its experience in building a tolerant and multicultural society through an exchange of experts in religious studies with Muslim countries.

Considering that development issues, like good governance, transparency and anti-corruption are mostly common for Southern countries and remain priorities for governments and development partners, Azerbaijan's innovative solutions to address these issues can be useful in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and therefore be in high demand.

International development assistance and humanitarian aid are substantial aspects of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan as an emerging power. The establishment of AIDA signifies that providing assistance to Southern countries will no longer be ad hoc. Given that the funding environment from traditional Northern facilities is decreasing, development assistance from Southern emerging powers like Azerbaijan is becoming increasingly important.

The country is in a good position to advance SS&TC. As acknowledged in the country UNAPF, Azerbaijan has significantly increased national capacities and more knowledge-intensive, advocacy-driven synergies with the national planning process and has thus transitioned from mainly development assistance-based cooperation to a partnership. Furthermore, UNCT assured its support to the Government to advance SSC through knowledge sharing.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Emphasize the role that Azerbaijan plays in SSC at the global and regional levels through integrating SSC components in national strategic documents as well as government agreements with Southern countries and regional groupings;
- ii. Consider an opportunity to institutionalise SSC through development and adoption of strategy on SS&TC and establishment of a national-level coordination mechanism on SSC, based on existing institutional arrangements. The latter element is important for better coordination of SSC activities, building and strengthening peer linkages and improving information and data flows on SSC in Azerbaijan and beyond;
- iii. Consider an opportunity to establish a specialised SSC Trust Fund to support exchange with Southern countries, including the potential replication of Azerbaijani good practices, in particular "ASANxidmat," in Southern countries in need and Southern solutions demanded in Azerbaijan;

- iv. Regarding the membership of Azerbaijan in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, leverage commitment of the Government to SSC by pledging funds in line with UN targets to progressively increase ODA to developing countries by 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI);
- v. Market or share best practices and Azerbaijan-grown solutions on good governance, IT/E-Government, mine actions and other successful sectors with Southern countries; utilize the opportunity to showcase the “ASAN xidmət” model and other Azerbaijan-grown solutions at the upcoming Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in Dubai in November 2016;
- vi. In expression of the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” sought by SDG 17 and in cooperation with UNCT, UNDP and UNOSSC should facilitate the systematization of information on proven developed best practices to offer Southern countries and local demand on development solutions.

### **Recommendations to UNDP Azerbaijan:**

#### **To increase the role of the UNDP CO in supporting Azerbaijan’s South-South Cooperation agenda:**

- i. Promote information-sharing and monitoring of SS&TC activities, and raise awareness of the benefits of such a form of cooperation;
- ii. Provide assistance to the Government for identifying priority areas for SS&TC aligned with the priorities specified in Azerbaijan-2020 and other national strategic documents;
- iii. Provide assistance to the Government to gain access to the Web Information for Development (WIDE) and other development-oriented information networks and platforms;
- iv. Provide support to national partners in sharing local expertise and knowledge by:
  - Identifying and documenting Azerbaijani development solutions on UNOSSC Online Solutions Mapping Portal;
  - Showcasing them on the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) and Regional Arab states and ECIS South-South Development Expo;
  - Addressing other UNDP country offices and United Nations agencies in the region and beyond and with UNOSSC to raise awareness on local capacities and proven locally developed best practices and facilitate the design of new SSC initiatives that match the Azerbaijani-grown solutions to the demand of Southern countries and vice versa;
  - Considering an opportunity to join the SSC Initiative on Anti-Corruption and Governance Integrity developed by the UNDP regional hubs in the Arab States and Eastern Europe and the CIS regions with support of the UNOSSC, which is highly relevant to the “ASAN xidmət” model and other good governance solutions for new partnerships;
  - Considering an opportunity to join the UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for agricultural development and enhanced food security in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia.
- v. Provide advice to the Government on existing South-South exchange platforms such as WIDE Expert Roster and facilitate the engagement of national practitioners in such exchanges by developing a roster of experts to share;
- vi. Promote awareness of the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation on the annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, celebrated 12 September.