

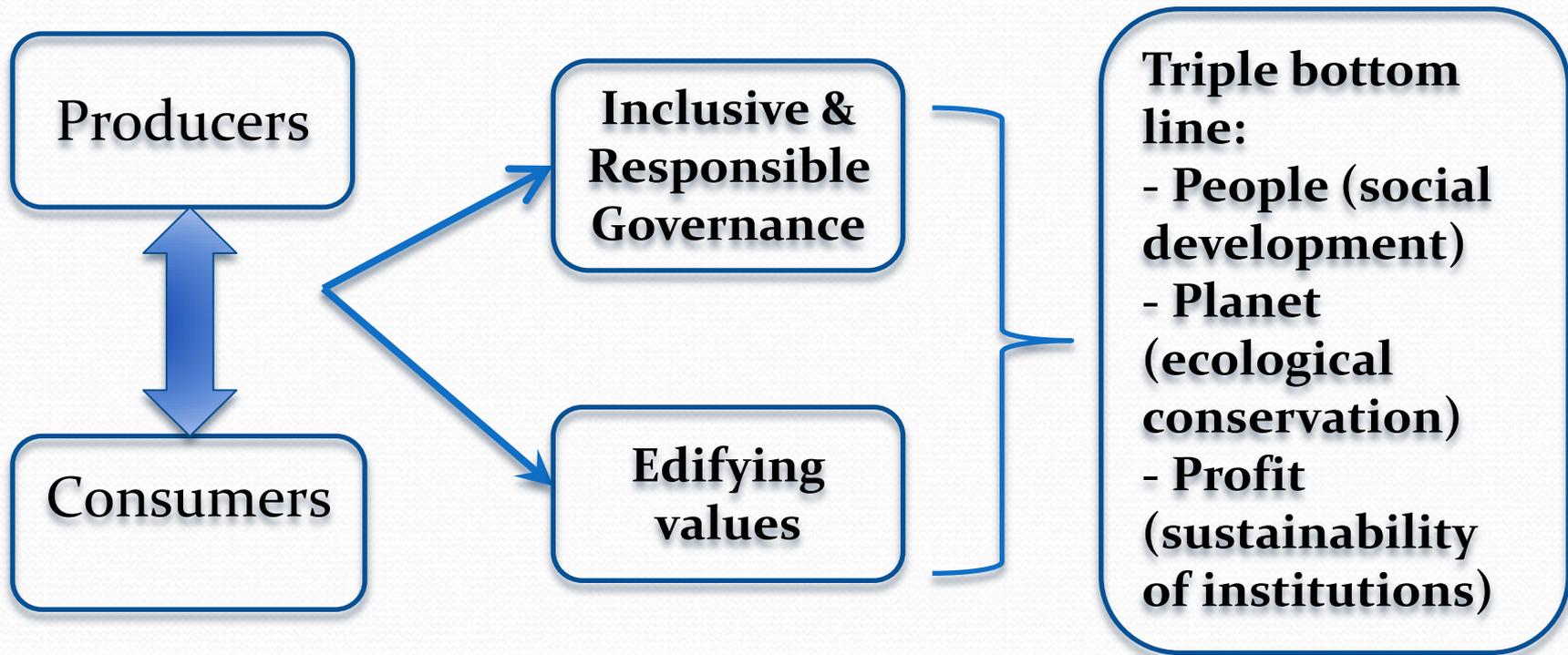


Global South-South Development EXPO 2014

ILO Solution Forum: Social & Solidarity Economy (SSE) in the Asian context

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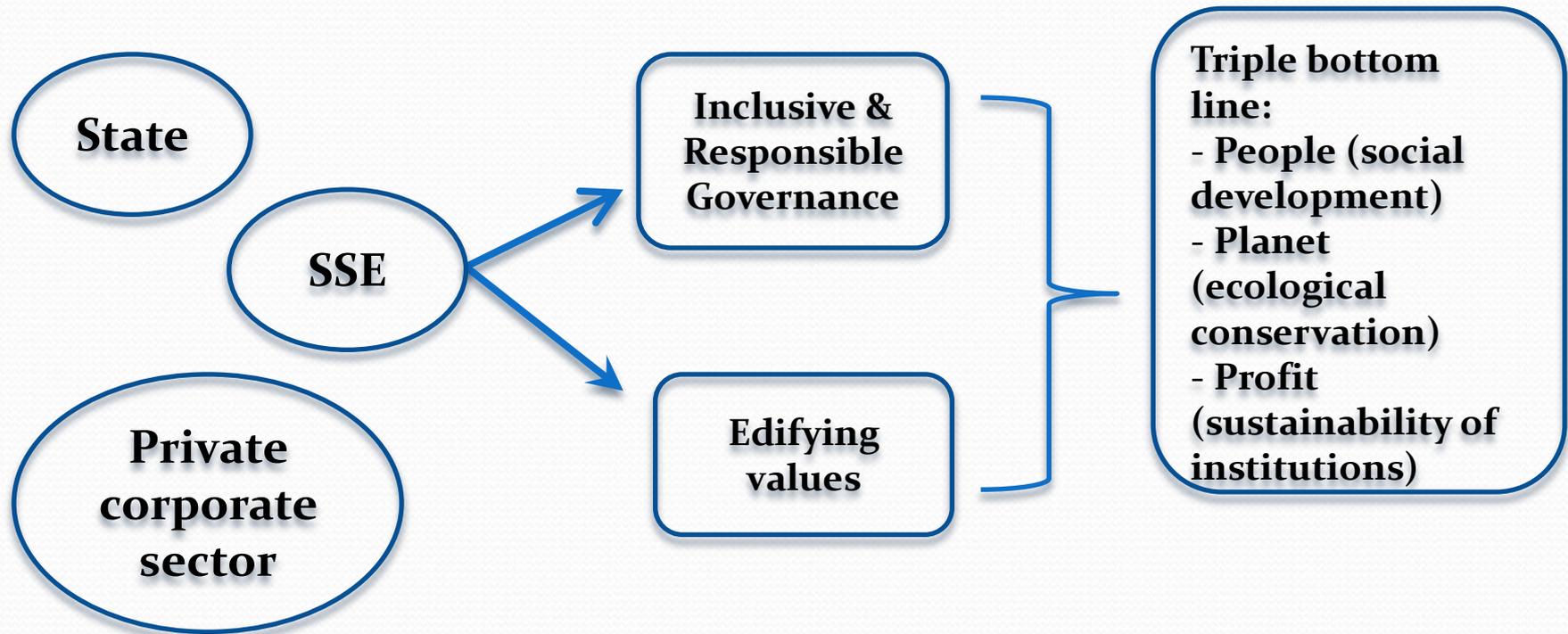
Social Solidarity Economy (SSE): What is it?



SSE is an economy self-governed by ordinary people & based on cooperation between organized groups of producers & consumers.

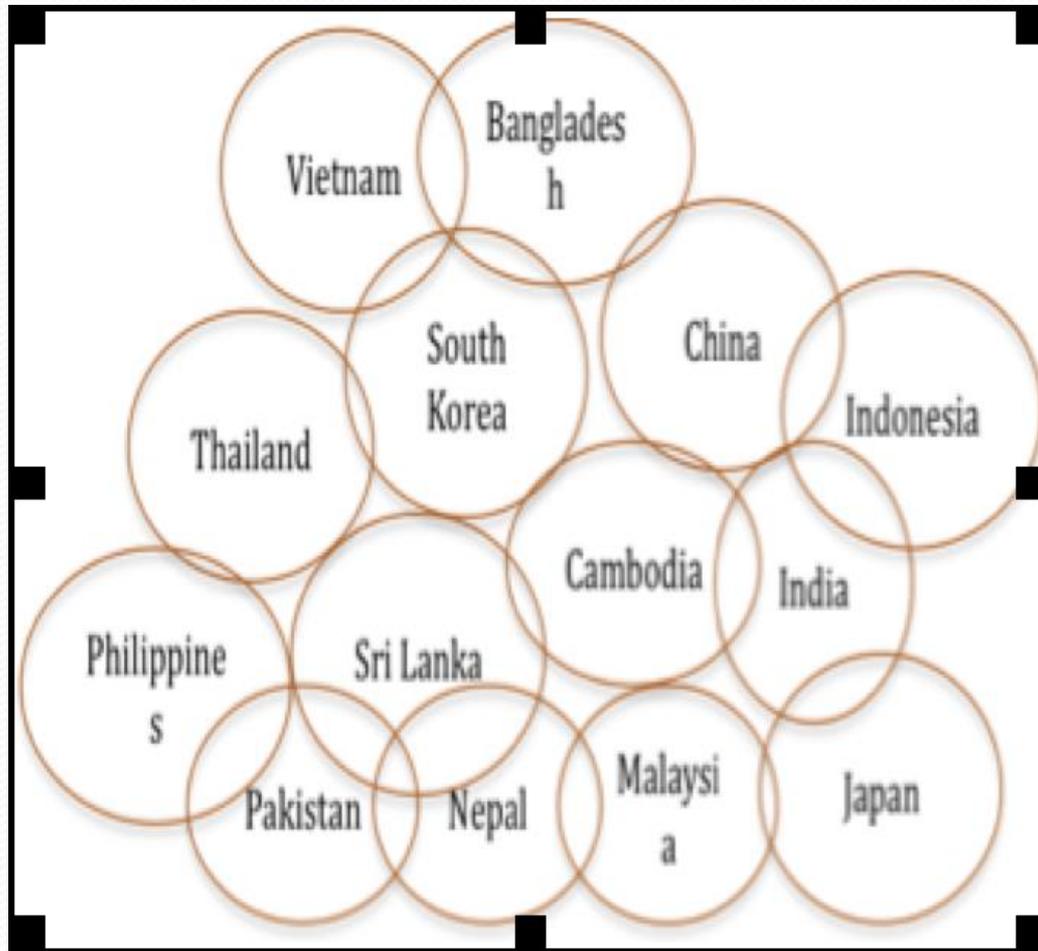
SSE is a “triple-bottom line” approach to development as it aims at: (1) meeting people’s social development needs, (2) conserving the environment, and (3) ensuring a sustainable society.

Social Solidarity Economy (SSE): What is it?



At the macro-level, SSE can be a means for development cooperation with the State and the private corporate sector towards inclusive and sustainable development. A conducive public policy environment for SSE as well as private companies' support for SSE products & services can improve the “triple bottom line” of the government’s development program & the private sector’s CSR program, respectively.

Solidarity Economy Learning Journey (SELJ)



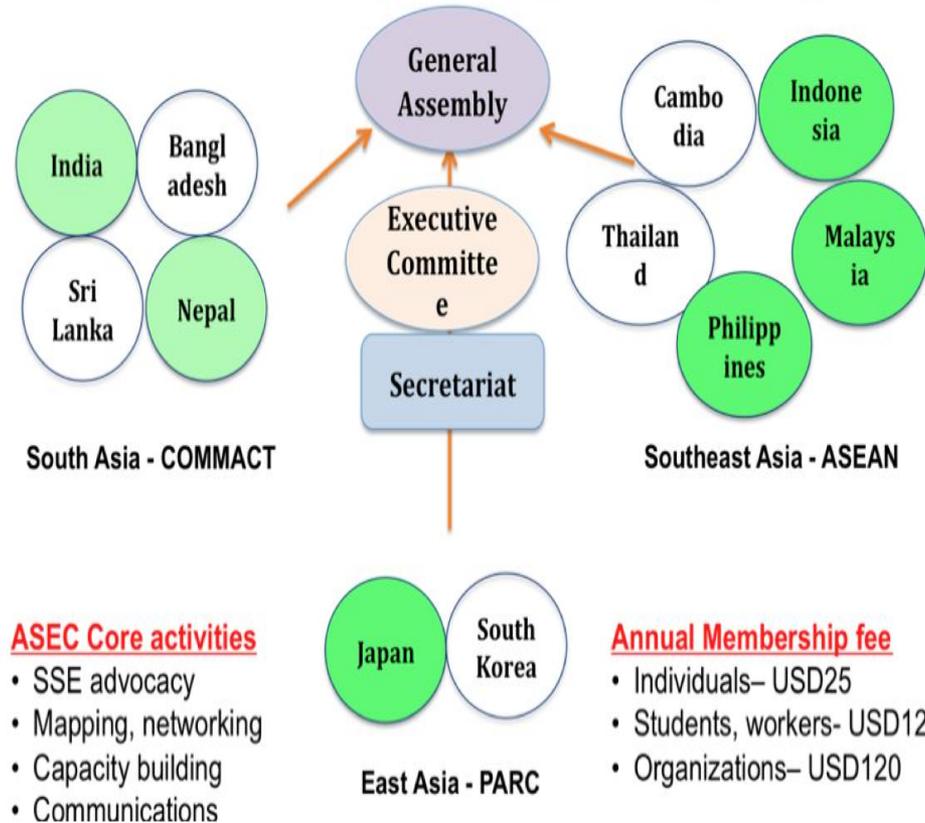
SELJ is a solidarity project of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia engaged in socio-economic development. Aimed at enhancing the concept & practice of SSE in Asia, the project received funding support from Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for Human Development (FPH) during 2006-2010 which enabled partner CSOs from various Asian countries to exchange SSE information & experiences.

Solidarity Economy Learning Journey (SELJ)

SELJ started with 1st Asian Solidarity Economy Forum in Manila in October 2007, which was henceforth conducted once every two years. Participating CSOs got to know each other and learned in a deeper way about each one's concept and practice of SSE.

In 2011, the collaborating CSOs established the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC). Since then, ASEC national chapters have been established in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, & the Philippines. Regional coordinating centers were also set up in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.

Now, we are the ... Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)



Innovation by social entrepreneur helps diversify local economy



Rice straw baler manufactured by DVF Dairy Engineering being tested

SSE case studies

ASEC verified SSE concepts against reality thru case studies & dialogue with local people, deepening CSOs' reflections on SSE, & building in the process trust & confidence among them. Together, participating CSOs undertook a participatory process of prototyping to translate visions into concrete models of SSE supply chains.



The biennial continental forums and periodic roundtable discussions on SSE (RTD-SSE) at country levels reviewed the outcomes of SELJ and drew lessons from it.



Benefits of SSTC in Devt of SSE Organizations (SSEOs)

1. Vibrant knowledge sharing on SSE: sharing of best practices and experiences in:

a) the development of SSEOs and their value chains, to address the post-2015 MDGs of social development, ecological conservation, and economic sustainability;

b) linking informal sector with the formal sector in triple bottom line value chains (e.g. fair trade, community supported agriculture, bank-self help group linkages)

c) job creation and entrepreneurial development for the youth, women, the elderly, & vulnerable groups. SSE is an instrument for generation of work, employment, and income.

d) investment programs of SSEOs aimed at attracting investments from overseas contract workers

Benefits of SSTC in Devt of SSE Organizations (SSEOs)

2. Broader knowledge and greater understanding of the concept and practice of SSE. This was demonstrated at the 5th RIPESS International Meeting of SSE held in Manila in October 2013 where over 400 participants from Asia actively participated in elaborating a global vision of SSE and in formulating the SSE recommendations for the post-2015 MDGs, which was submitted to the UN High Level Political Forum on July 3, 2014.

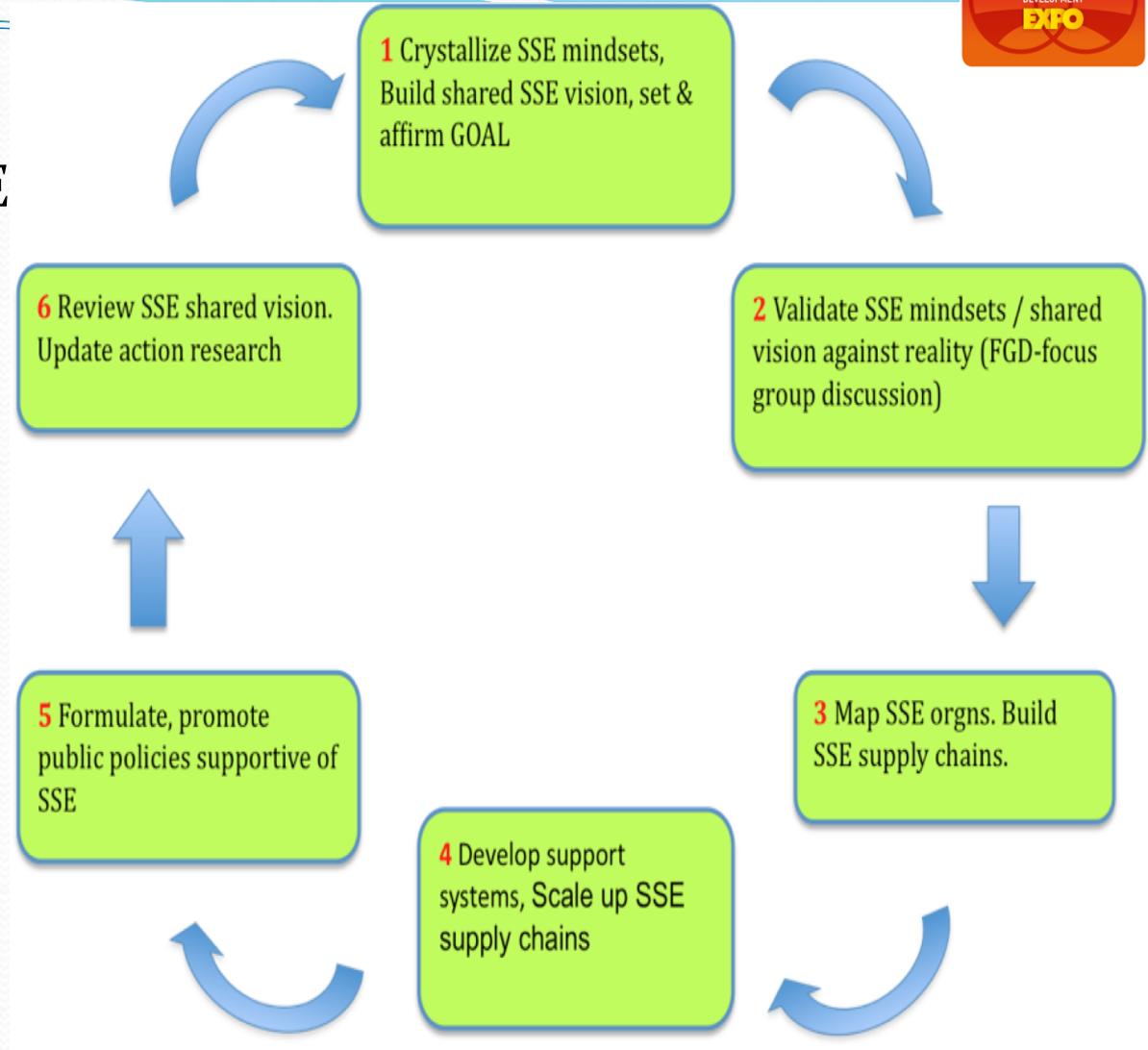
3. Establishment of ASEC chapters or focal points in Asian countries. ASEC chapters have been established in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, & the Philippines. Regional coordinating centers have been set up for South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.

4. Producer-Consumer Solidarity Projects. ASEC chapters in Indonesia, Malaysia, & Philippines are developing producer-consumer solidarity projects involving their respective national SSE networks.

SSTC Benefits

5. ASEC SSE Course.

ASEC designed an SSE Course for the purpose of training a team of SSE advocates & organization development (OD) specialists. Its 6 modules reflect the SELJ learning process.



SUSTAINABILITY

The ASEC SSE course, combined with the periodic roundtable discussions on SSE, has improved the sustainability of ASEC's advocacy and networking activities at the country level. A core group of SSE practitioners & advocates has emerged in some Asian countries.

INNOVATION

The SELJ has paved the way to a new SSE innovation, the ASEC Solidarity project – a multi-stakeholder undertaking aimed at scaling up SSE value chains. The project stakeholders include social enterprises, CSOs, academia, government and intergovernmental agencies, and international actors.

REPLICABILITY

At the country level, the ASEC SSE Course and the RTD-SSE can easily be replicated by national SSE networks. Project costs can be customized to the resource capacities of participating organizations. At the continental Asia level, partnership with an international funding agency continues to be an essential element for cross-country sharing of knowledge & expertise.

SSE Contributions to Local Economic & Social Development

1. *SSE promotes a participatory development process that brings together local government, the private sector, civil society organizations and the local communities.* SSE organizations create social capital that, when utilized by other stakeholders for business engagement, can increase economic productivity and has considerable positive externalities (Danny Unger, 1998). Enterprises thrive where social capital endowments of a community are sufficiently large, which provide larger socio-economic space for more enterprises to operate.

2. *SSE strengthens the organizational capacity of communities.* The key actors of SSE are producer organisations, cooperatives, trade unions, business associations, educational and research institutions & local govt units. In SSE, these actor work together to build development projects “from the bottom-up”.

SSE Contributions to Local Economic & Social Development

3. *SSE organizations can influence transaction costs that confront firms and the prospects of using norms of reciprocity and trust to overcome a variety of market failures (Bonacich & Modell, 1980) . SSE organizations have greater resilience in integrating unschooled youth or persons with disability for gainful employment.*
4. *SSE builds the capacity of communities to overcome poverty. SSEOs are designed to overcome collective action problems, such as underdevelopment and poverty. In communities where SSE organizations are few and weak, village people are unable to extend cooperation beyond the nuclear family.*
5. *SSE facilitates territorial development. Territorial development is the fruit of joint, collaborative and participative actions, of social and productive mobilization of the territory. These are functions inherent to SSE.*

In what ways can SSTC strengthen SSE?

- 1. Horizontal dimension of cooperation:* SSTC could strengthen cooperation between countries in SSE knowledge sharing, training of human resources or replication of strategies
- 2. Triangular dimension of cooperation:* SSTC could bolster the cooperation by a country of the North with two or more countries in the South in supporting SSE development.
- 3. Cooperation in promoting innovation:* SSTC could support SSE innovation that increases the productivity of local resources and/or enhances the effectiveness of development programs.
- 4. Cooperation in promoting adaptable/replicable strategies, approaches.* SSTC could support SSE strategies or approaches whose features are transferable to other contexts or situations.

In what ways can SSTC strengthen SSE?

5. *Cooperation in enhancing sustainability:* SSTC could support the replication of SSE practices whose benefits can continue to be effective in the medium and long term.
6. *Cooperation in enhancing social inclusion:* SSTC could support partnerships between SSE stakeholders that are inclusive, and which involve a multilateral approach to integration of the Decent Work Agenda.
7. *Cooperation in building SSE value chains:* SSTC could help build SSE value chains, especially due to the difficulty of inserting themselves into chains formed by other enterprises in the traditional economy
8. *Cooperation in development of international policies:* SSTC could support SSE initiatives that contribute to the development of international policies & increased visibility within the UN system

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