



*Trends and Opportunities in Advancing  
South-South and Triangular Cooperation in*  
**Tunisia**

**2018**

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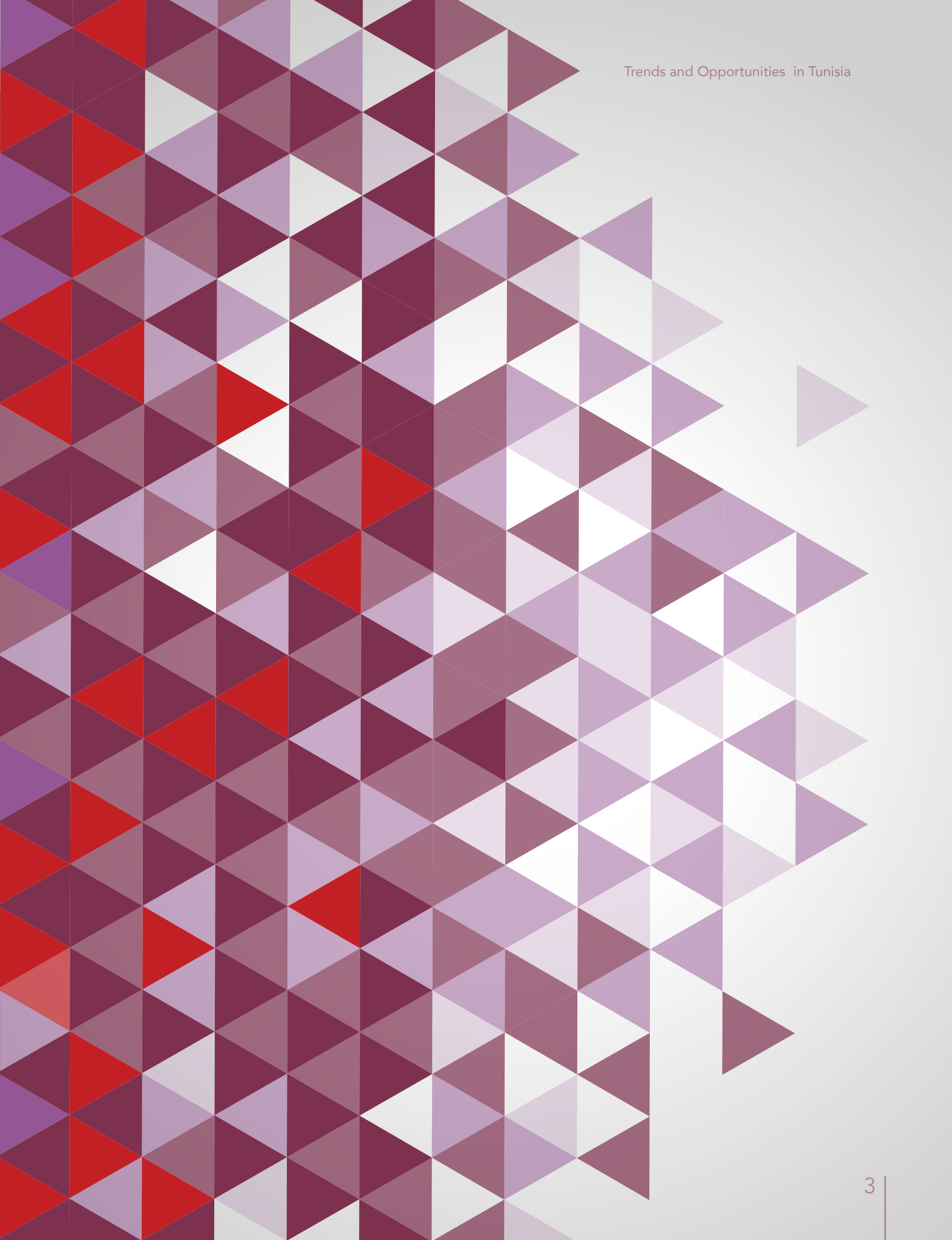
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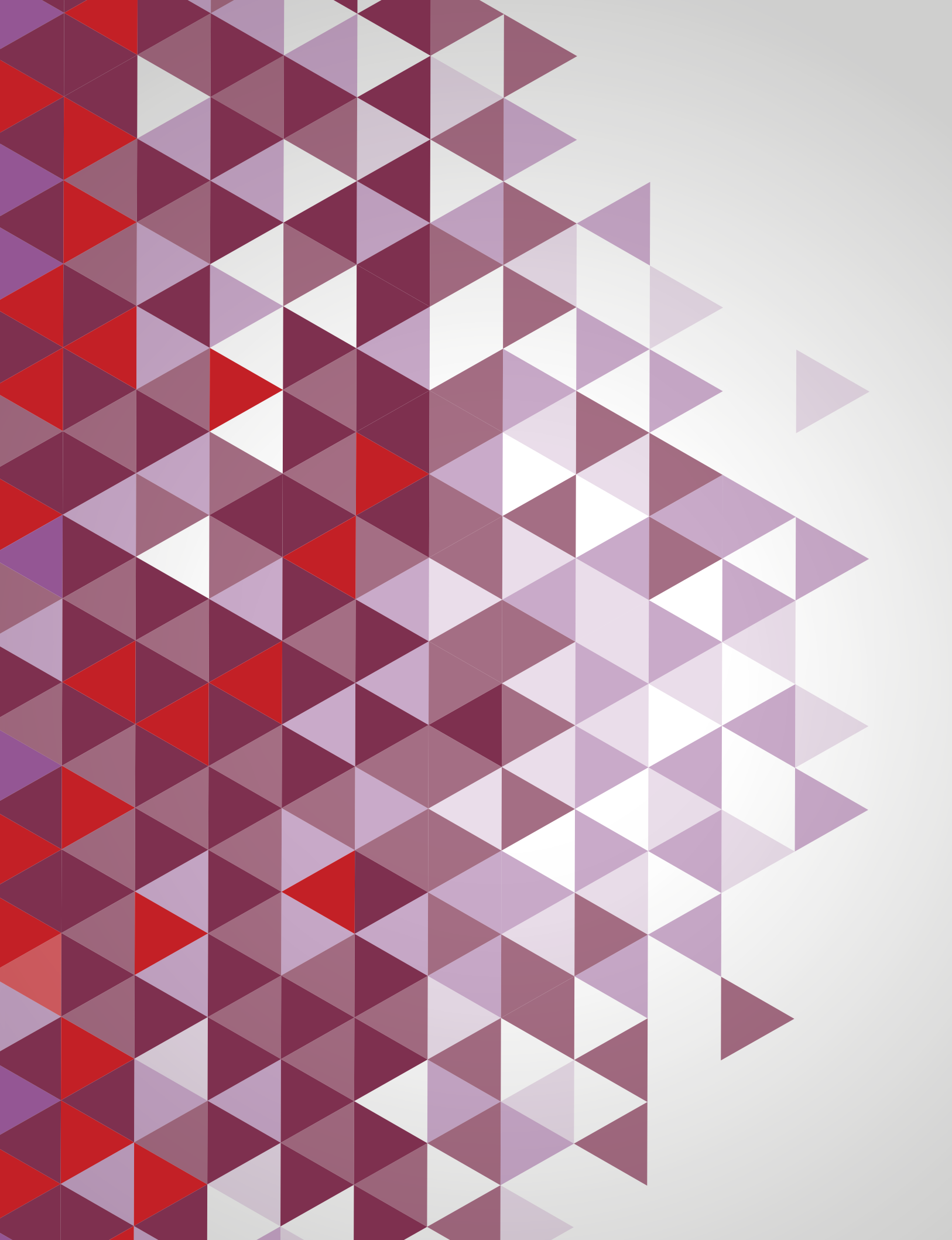
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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>ADB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>GIZ</b>	German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>KfM</b>	German Development Bank
<b>GCC</b>	Gulf Cooperation Council
<b>IsDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>JICA</b>	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MAHRF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resource & Fisheries
<b>MCTDE</b>	Ministry of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy
<b>ONAS</b>	The National Sanitation Utility
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>SS&amp;TC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
<b>SESRC</b>	Statistical, Economic and Social Research Center
<b>ATCT</b>	The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation
<b>CITET</b>	Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies
<b>CEPEX</b>	Tunisia Export Promotion Center
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Funds
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industry Development organization
<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





## Part 1. Introduction



# PART 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Tunisia is located in the northernmost country of Africa and the smallest country in the Maghreb region of North Africa. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Libya and Algeria. Tunisia, officially the Tunisian Republic, the estimated 2018 population of Tunisia is 11.66 million<sup>1</sup>.

According to the World Bank; Tunisia has been considered as unique example in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), that was due to the significant progress has been made on the political transition to an open and democratic system of governance<sup>2</sup>.

The capital and largest city is Tunis, with a population of just over one million. This is followed closely by Sfax with a population of 945,000. Other major cities include Tunis, Sfax, and Sousse. Tunisia is a middle-income country with a high level of human development with a largely urban and young population (26.7 per cent are under the age of 15). With an average annual growth rate of 5 per cent for the past three decades, the country has long been considered a model of economic success. The country characterized as a small territory, a relatively homogenous population, liberalized economy, a large and educated middle class, and a history of encouraging women's socioeconomic freedoms.

Since the 2011 era "the revolution" that ended the 23-year 's regime of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia has taken advance steps toward democracy and reforms in all its governance institutions, the era was marked

by the avoidance of chaos and tyranny that occurred in many Arab countries after 2011 era. Tunisia has successfully completed a four-year transnational period after the adoption of the new constitution in January 2014.

Tunisian adopted a new constitution in January 2014 and held national elections between October and December 2014, marked the completion of a four-year transitional period. A coalition government was formed from Nidaa Tunis ("Tunisia's Call") and Al Nahda party, so far that collation brings stability and peace in the country, but till today Tunisia is still struggling to achieve democratic reforms and economic growth. Prior to 2011 Tunisia was considered one of the best performing non-oil-exporting countries in the Middle East and North Africa, key sectors are textile, tourism and phosphate mining. The majority of Tunisians are highly educated.

According to the World Bank 2 WB, Tunisia has made important steps to improve its democratic transition and currently undertaken tremendous efforts towards institutional and economic reforms, but the country remains fragile to economic and social shocks.

In 2017" WB", the economy grew by 2 percent following 1 percent and 1.1 percent in 2016 and 2015, respectively. The contribution of exports and investment remain significantly below their levels before the 2011 Revolution. On the production side, in 2017 growth was significantly derived by agriculture and services, while industrial and non-manufacturing industries (i.e., phosphate, oil) have not fully

<sup>1</sup> <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/Tunisia-population2 documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/956151523636538483/pdf/125263-MEM-April2018-Tunisia-EN.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tunisia/overview>

recovered.

Unemployment still high at 15.5 percent in 2017 despite a low labor force participation, at about 50 percent, mainly due to weak participation of women (28 percent). The approach adopted by the government to measure poverty was recently updated by the National Institute of Statistics to better reflect current living conditions. The official poverty rate estimate for 2015 was 15.2 percent, down from 20.5 percent in 2010 and 23.1 percent in 2005. Still the regional disparities are remains key feature, with the North West and Center West showing rates almost twice the national average.

The adoption of Agenda 2030 came amidst the General Assembly's resolution entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", has further acknowledged the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. However, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 SDGs, Goal 17 specifically underlines the necessity of strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development and South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on such matters as capacity-building, science, technology and innovation. In addition to that the principles of South-South Cooperation- SSC considered South-South Cooperation as a partnership among equals, based on solidarity, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation

programmes and projects<sup>3</sup>.

South-South Cooperation considered an important framework for the investment of the Tunisian experience gained over the past four decades. Tunisia has achieved great progress in various sectors, agriculture, tourism, industry and mining. The leadership and the quality of education has contributed greatly to the renaissance of Tunisia. Tunisian's experience has been used to formulate, follow up and conduct programmes and projects for neighboring African countries benefiting from donor's countries, regional and international institutions, with a view to developing their capacities in areas and sectors in which Tunisia has acquired experience and comparative advantage.

The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation ATCT is the national focal point for South-South cooperation in Tunisia, The Agency undertakes the follow up of the triangular cooperation programs with a number of supporting partners, it also coordinates with the national authorities in order benefiting from the advantage of the opportunities in many fields and transfer the successful Tunisian experiences, as well as unleash the role Tunisia can play in transferring experiences and knowledge in the South countries and within the region.

## 1.2 Objectives and methodology

The stocktaking aimed at exploring and defining Tunisia's long history, strategic preferences and priorities in South-South cooperation, in addition to focusing on the great experiences and potentialities that Tunisia has been providing to many countries in the region within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation SS&TC.

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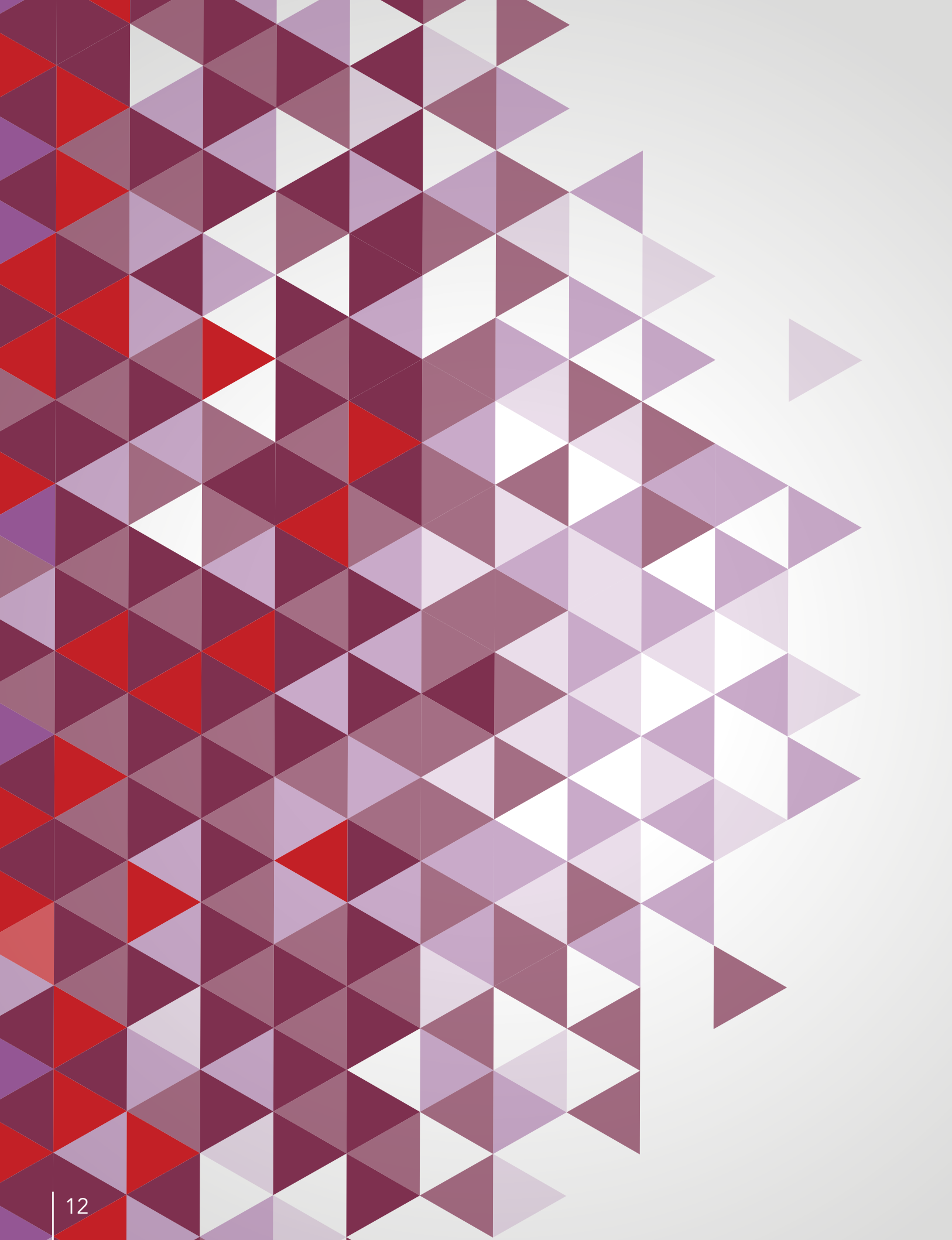
<sup>3</sup> Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation. High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Nineteenth session. <http://undocs.org/en/SSC/19/3>

The stock-taking exercise was conducted to identify relevant South-South cooperation frameworks, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of individual line ministries, public agencies, as well as UN agencies, funds and programmes and development cooperation partners active in Tunisia.

The methodology of the stocktaking includes desk review of the existing policy and institutional frameworks for SSC and TC in Tunisia, survey was designed aimed to collect information on existing capacities and expertise as well as data for analysis of the current state of SS and TC in the country. Broad consultative meetings with the key governmental institutions, international partners and private sector was conducted, twelve consultative meetings with the governmental institutions recommended by the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), the national focal point for SSC in Tunisia coordinating the stocktaking on the side of Tunisia, as well as with United Nations Country Team UNCT, six UN agencies and development cooperation partners contributed to the analysis with valuable information by provided additional data for the analysis of the potential areas for cooperation, including knowledge and expertise sharing, best practices as well as significant potential activities that can promote the active engagement of Tunisia in South-South cooperation, and informed the findings of the stocktaking exercise.

The meetings were held at the premises of the Government line ministries, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Tourism-MT, Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies-CITET, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research -MCTDE, National Sanitation Utility ONAS, Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources & Fisheries-MAHRF, Tunisia Export –CEPEX and Ministry of Industry.

Important contribution covered the main areas of development cooperation, as well as significant insight and valuable recommendations have been received during the meetings with the key Tunisian national institutions and UNCT in Tunisia. Due to the limited scope of the stocktaking, which was aimed at addressing the opportunities and successes of South-South cooperation in the country, the report could have been more comprehensive and reflected all areas of cooperation in Tunisia. However, the report highlights the significant examples of successful solutions in very complex areas carried out by Tunisian institutions and can be a model for replication in other countries within the approach of South-South Cooperation.





## Part 2. Overview of Potential for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Tunisia

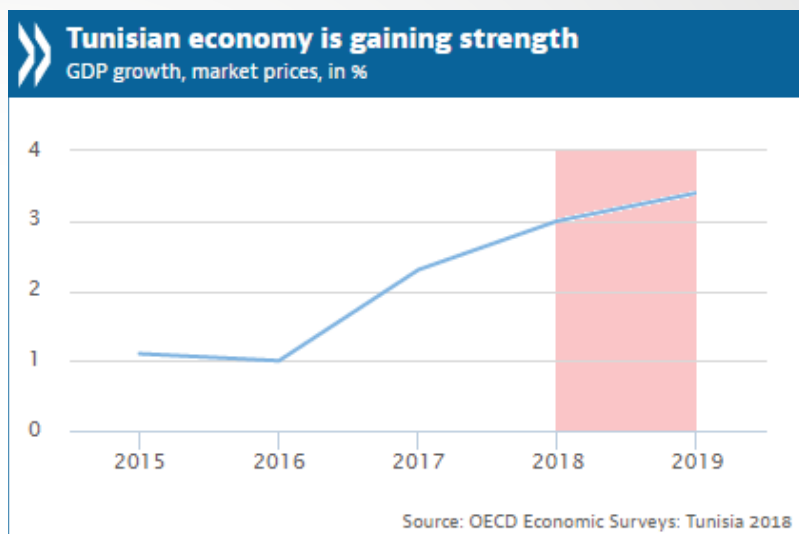


## PART 2. OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN TUNISIA

### 2.1 International Cooperation Frameworks as opportunities for SSC

Despite the specificity of the political, social and security period after 2011 era in the country and the current development in the region, but Tunisia remained an active player in the international development cooperation process and has witnessed a remarkable development cooperation in both levels; technical cooperation and South-South through the Tunisian Agency for Technical cooperation which as well acted as SSC focal point in the country. Development cooperation was rooted in Tunisia through development cooperation policy and programmes of cooperation which significantly contributed and assisted many countries in their development programmes in the neighboring countries and the South.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development -OECD report on new structural reforms in Tunisia, the report highlighted that the country economy is recovering and driven by strong performance in the tourism sector, the report also indicated that further reforms are needed for sustainable growth and better living standards for all population. Tunisian government adopted new investment law which simplified the procedure and attracted foreign direct investment which flow in the country. The enabling political environment in terms of democratic rule, increased in political process and participation, new freedom of expression and reduction in poverty rates, has substantially contributed to the economic stability and growth.



The United States Agency for International Development USAID, has substantially contributed in both Humanitarian and development finance assistance to Tunisia, since 2011 USAID has provided nearly \$300 million to support Tunisia's economic growth and democracy. In addition to that finance development assistance to Tunisia has tripled, the European Union-EU as main donor in the country contributed by 228 million euros in 2010, 471 million euros in 2012 and 790 million euros in 2014<sup>4</sup>.

During the consultative process, the United Nations Resident Coordinator-UNRC/ United Nations Development Programme UNDP Resident Representative in Tunisia highlighted the significant role of SSC as effective mechanism in the land scape of the global development

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cap-lmu.de/download/2017/CAPerspectives-Tunisia-2017-07.pdf>

cooperation and in Tunisia as well.

The commitment of supporting South-South Cooperation in Tunisia was announced by UNDP, in that direction UNDP will provide technical assistance to Tunisia through a project that will be jointly designed to strengthen the institutional and human resources capacities of the Tunisian national institutions.

Examples of successful projects already implemented between UNDP and Tunisia were highlighted, namely; the rehabilitation and training of the police and other reforms projects within the relevant ministries and national authorities. Tunisia has a pioneering experience in the field of small and medium enterprises according to the representative of the United Nations Industry Development organization -UNIDO.

Numbers of Strategic projects financed by multilateral donors in the energy, trade, food safety, youth employment and small and medium projects in Tunisia. The European Union financed one of the key energy project in Tunisia, as well as the USAID funded a project under "Facility Youth Employment" for creating small and big projects through employment enterprises.

FAO in Tunisia have supported the Ministry of Agriculture Hydraulic Resources & Fisheries through mapping the potential areas of cooperation within the neighboring countries in the North and Western Africa region in the field of agriculture's good practices, Food and Agricultural Organization FAO has put significant efforts in mobilizing experts and sent well experienced professional cadre to Togo within SSC as well as strengthening the cooperation in agriculture between Tunisia and Morocco through long-term technical assistant programme in the production system. The FAO regional office for North Africa which based in Tunisia established partnership cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture Hydraulic

Resources & Fisheries, Tunisian Agency for Technical cooperation and the Ministry of Finance in promoting and enhancing food security and agriculture in Tunisia.

The consultative process also included the World Health Organization-WHO and the United Nations Children's Funds -UNICEF. WHO has component programmes in Tunisia under SSC, namely with Libya and Sudan in the health sector. According to UNICEF Tunisia considered as best country in education and made access to education as priority to everyone. Tunisian government through its reforms process has improved the quality and the curriculum of the education, as well the country is very open to share its experiences with other countries of the South. UNICEF has facilitated the dialogue through SSC between Tunisia and Djibouti, Lebanon and Morocco. In the pre-school education Tunisia has good experiences and competitive advantage in this sector of education, where it has engaged the private sector and encourage it to expand in this field, as well as Tunisia put significant efforts on girl's education therefore, a real renaissance emerged as a result of the broad participation of Tunisian women in public affairs and a great liberation movement that led to important roles and contributions of Tunisian women in all social, political and cultural fields. On SSC investment; UNICEF bring good example of dialogue between Tunisia and the governments of Mexico, Brazil and Argentina in social protection to vulnerable children.

According to the survey responses which was completed by more than 24 UN agencies and government institutions, Tunisia engaged with SSC as providing assistance and recipient country, the country has great experience of SSC as knowledge exchange and technical assistance. Tunisia can contribute through SSC in the area of knowledge exchange and replication of good practices, namely in Tourism sector where the country has

comparative advantage in this field. Japan through Japanese International Cooperation Agency - JICA considered Tourism as sector of cooperation and significantly contributed in Tourism training and institutional development. Despite the progress in the Tourism sector, but this sector faces challenges in promoting SSC, such as language barrier and financial, as well as limited human resources.

The Tunisia International Center for Environmental Technologies – CITET, according to its mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Tunisia and the Arab-African and Mediterranean countries in the field of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources, through; Skills development and capacity building of Tunisia and other neighboring countries in the field of environment and technologies, as well as providing technical assistance to industrial enterprises and promotion of environmental friendly technologies, adaptation, transfer and promotion of technologies economically and the promotion of knowledge and the dissemination of information.

CITET engaged in SSC through co-financing activities in partnerships with public authorities through Memorandum of Understanding MoU, which financed capacity building, field visits and technical workshops. Tunisia has engaged with Arab and African countries, UN agencies and regional financial institutions in the framework of SSC in the field of Environment and natural resources.

TICET CITET has long experience and high quality regulation to serve the purposes of the environment and water. It also has international dimension and participations at the highest regional and international levels in the field of finance technology and capacity support, as well as TICET being the first specialized center in the region. Many countries have benefited from the services of the Center, in particular

North Africa, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The priorities of CITET are to provide a new vision for the future at the regional and international levels and responding to climate change and marine systems, as well as to review these priorities by focusing on technological innovation and keeping abreast of global developments with developed countries that produce such technology and have the experience in this field.

CITET aspires to be Tunisia's platform to provide technology to African countries, in this context, CITET is well prepared and has the political will and capabilities and expertise to play this role. In achieving international standard, the CITET has replicated the experience of South Korea's framework law and also the United States of America and Canada experiences.

CITET benefited from SS&Tc in financial, institutional and knowledge exchange as it contributed through SS&Tc in the areas of finance in-kind contribution for short-term projects, finance local logistics for the training at CITET. The government recognized CITET as strategic partner for development of SSC. With over 40 years of experience, the Tunisian Export Promotion Center has developed a valuable expertise and an effective know-how in the support and guidance of the exporting companies in the international markets. Tunisian Export Promotion Center - CEPEX has well-structured intuitional set-up and strongly coordinated with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation in many strategic interventions, through its expertise and knowledge, the center has been able to provide training courses and also promote the export sector in Africa, Europe, Middle east and Asia.

CEPEX has strong partnership with the Islamic Development Bank-IsDB through its



programme of cooperation" Reverse Linkage" which focused on strengthening value chains within the agricultural sector and set-up the methodology and many activities within SSC in coordination with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation.

## 2.2 Institutional frameworks as

and signed all agreements with development partners and recipient countries.

Although the main role of the ATCT is to act as a promoter of marketing the professional Tunisian skills abroad and explore opportunities for employment, also the ATCT has key division for South-South cooperation which



*Consultative meeting with Mr. Habib Hammami, Central Director- Tunisia Centre for Promotion of Export*

## enabling environment for SSC

According to the consultative meeting with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation-ATCT, it was found that there is a broad understanding and effective practice of South-South cooperation among all national institutions, as well as there are effective implementation, exchange of experience and knowledge, and replication of successful experiences to neighboring African countries. Tunisia through the ATCT established a Coordination mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation SS&Tc, in which most of the Development cooperation projects were channeled through ATCT and even it contracted

actively engaged with all line ministries, private sector and academia in promoting and mainstreaming SSC in Tunisia. However, the opportunities in terms of experiences and practices are great, but the coordination remains one of the big challenges in addition to the absence of strategy for SSC in the country and the shortage of employees. Moreover, the Agency aspires to the establishment of a legal institutional framework to achieve opportunities, successes and promote expertise abroad.

One of the main challenges concluded from the consultative meeting with the Tunisian Agency, is the limited of resources that crippled the activities of the Agency, as a result, solutions have been emerged from the relevant department, which

is working on a variety of resources outside the agency. Regarding SSC, the Tunisian Agency adopts a systematic organizational set-up, clear vision in promoting and mainstreaming SSC. However, this arrangement remains deficient in terms of supportive policies, coordination and financial and human resources. This reflected the biggest challenge for unleashing the huge Tunisian potentiality and rich experiences in many sectors accumulated throughout four decades on development cooperation.

In the survey responses, the main key partners and national institutions assured that there is no annual budget allocated for SSC and recommended that the approach of triangular cooperation could be an effective mechanism for the provision of technical assistant and financial resources. In the public financial management

Tunisia through the Tunisian Agency has high caliber and resource team trained many African countries in this field, aid coordination is one of the key pillar and yet need more efforts to be well controlled and managed.

The Tunisian Agency has established strong relation with various regional and international organizations and some countries in the region. The Agency has enhanced the cooperation with various international institutions based in Tunisia, such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the German Agency for International Cooperation-GIZ, the African Development Bank -ADB-Regional Branch and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research Center-SESRC.

With regard to South-South cooperation, the



*Debriefing the Director General of the Tunisian Agency for technical Cooperation and consultative meeting with SSC team at the TA*



Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT) completed several activities in 2017, including the assignment of experts and consultants on technical assistance missions, including: 57 experts and consultants in 35 technical assistance missions, including: 17 doctors in the Loss of sight campaigns achieved by the Association of Sight Club Nadi Al Bassar funded by the Islamic Development Bank for the benefit of many African countries

Within the implementation of a 3-year Reverse linkage project to enhance the teaching of Arab language in Chad between The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation, The Islamic Development Bank and the Ministry of Education of Chad

Deployed three experts in the assignment of technical assistant to The National Investment Promotion Agency of Djibouti in the field of the creation of free trade area, with the financial support of the Islamic Company for the development of the private sector.

Deployed an expert from the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation to support the project of the establishment of South-South Cooperation Unit in Sudan, the mission was funded by the Islamic Development Bank<sup>5</sup>.

## 2.3 South-South cooperation in Tunisia

Fruitful and productive cooperation within the framework of SSC found its way towards high education and many other ministries, trade center and academic institutions. Ambitious Programme of cooperation has been agreed between Morocco and Tunisia, as well as IbnRushd programme for movement and exchange between Tunisia and Algeria will be signed this year (2018). In the field of medicine two faculties of medicine has been



*Department of SSC at the ATCT*

established with the support of Tunisia Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Djibouti and Republic of Chad cemented the cooperation between the three countries and the two recipient's countries benefited from the advance experience and the high qualification and professional Tunisian scientist in this field. The cooperation also extended with Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Niger. Tunisia has organized regional forums and invited countries from West, Central and East Africa "Francophone" in many fields of cooperation.

Tunisia has a privileged cooperation in many key areas with the emerging economies, South countries and with the Arab states in particular

<sup>4</sup> The 2017 report of the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation

the Gulf Cooperation Council-GCC. One of the emerging economies that Tunisia has established a unique cooperation, is South Africa in which the cooperation extended to many important sectors such as; health, agriculture, sustainable development, renewable energy and transfer of technology. Tunisia adopts a scientific approach in the process of cooperation with the targeted countries based on prioritization and training of trainers in its educational institutions and training center. The Islamic Development Bank –IsDB has greatly contributed to the training process in Tunisia through the concerned national institutions. Triangular cooperation constitutes a real addition in Tunisia, especially with the European Union countries, namely France and Germany in the field of higher education. Tunisian’s researchers play a leading role in the development of higher education in the country and beyond, where Tunisia was completely settled and it worked for disseminating and replicating such rich experiences in African neighbor countries, benefiting from its qualified professionals and guided by the strategy adopted by Tunisia in the development of mechanisms and encourage researchers to transfer the knowledge and experiences to African countries.

The strategic scope of the ministry of high education and scientific research is

to assist countries in technology transfer, scientific research, high education and economy. The ministry has transferred experience in the energy sector to Burkina Faso and Benin.

Tunisia, with the support of the African Development Bank –ADB (1992-1994), established a network of 25 national technical institutes involved 27 thousand students and 3 thousand university professors. These institutes also receive foreign students from several countries of the South and the African region. One of the objectives of these institutes is to implement successful practices from countries such as Canada and France and transferred to Tunisia. This approach encourages the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation to actively pursue with the ministry of high education and Promote these qualities abroad.

According to the survey the majority of the key ministries engaged in SSC as recipient and provider as well as in Triangular cooperation. Despite the expansion and importance of South-South cooperation in Tunisia, but no budget has been allocated to this cooperation, only small amount in kind contribution allotted for limited activities and grants received from bilateral and multilateral cooperation used within the framework of Triangular cooperation.







## Part 3. Good Practices for South-South Cooperation

## PART 3. GOOD PRACTICES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

### 3.1 New innovative implementation of the SDGs

Tunisia involved with South-South cooperation at the bilateral, Maghreb and African levels, the political and economic stability has supported Tunisia during the past five decades in practices SSC and development cooperation at broader level, in addition to the reformist approach after the 2011 era which greatly contributed to the reform of the development cooperation mechanisms and as well enhanced the implementation of 2030 Agenda of the sustainable development. Tunisia established strong cooperation with its neighboring countries, namely Algeria and Morocco in the Higher education sector and academic and scientific research through the exchange of experiences with lectures, students and common interest within North Africa region.

The Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research played a prominent role in promoting South-South cooperation in the Maghreb

region and African countries through strategic partnerships with many recipients and provider actors. According to the consultative meeting with the ministry, a strategy of cooperation has been adopted for Africa focusing on two objectives; 1) Opening the way for Tunisia to become a destination for students and researchers from Africa; and 2) Disseminate Tunisian experience to Africa through highly qualified experts and professional academic scientists from Tunisia.

According to the Tunisian Agency's report for 2017, great quality shift in the seconded cadre of higher disciplines and infrequent specialization has been occurred in the field of professional and training in 2017, the number of Higher education teachers'

increased by 40% and Specialty Doctors by 29%. New opportunities have emerged and the most important were the French and the Canadian labour market, where the volume of all recruitments increased in 2017 to 336 at an increase rate of 13% compared with 2016.

*Sidi Bou Said, a tourist suburb in the North-East of capital Tunis. Source : fjet.net*





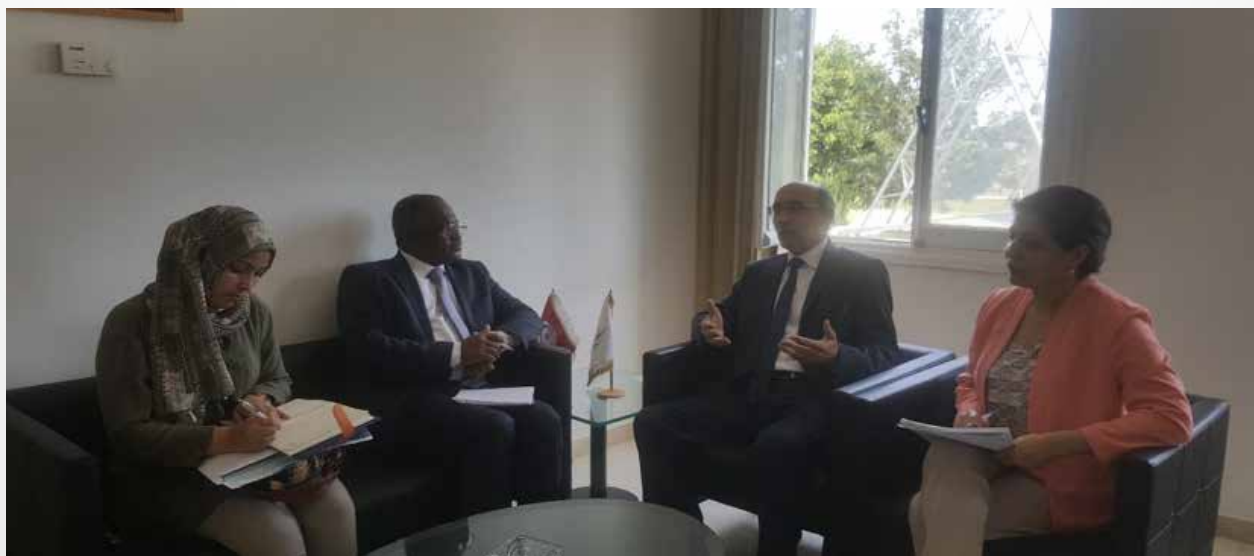
Tunisia has a great tourist potential that has enabled the country to be a destination for many tourists from all over the world. The openness and accession of Tunisian diplomatic missions has significantly contributed to the promotion of tourism despite the obstacles of air transport and poor budgets to participate in international tourism exhibitions. The European Union EU is the main contributor to the alternative tourism in Tunisia by supporting human capacities. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also focused on the tourism sector in Tunisia through the sensitization campaigns, considering the importance of tourism sector in the country's economy.

In 2016 the direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP was USD2,726.9mn, 6.6% of total GDP, in 2016 Travel & Tourism directly supported 206,500 jobs (6.0% of total employment)<sup>6</sup>.

The National Sanitation Utility–ONAS, is an important and standalone independent Public institution, ONAS is one of the advanced institutions in Tunisia used the most up-to-date technology in the field of sanitation.

Combating all forms of water pollution, disposing, exploiting, maintaining, renovating and setting up all facilities for the purification of cities, promoting the sale and distribution of the products of purification plants from treated water and sludge. Planning and completing projects related to sanitation.

ONAS was established in 1974 to address health issues, considering that the education and health sectors are the highest priorities of Tunisia. The World Bank has greatly encouraged and catalyzed the establishment of this institution, that well benefited from the German experience (German School of Sanitation-through GIZ). Such important institution it's strategy through 20 years, is to develop network in the big cities and then transport and collect the contaminated water and treated first by focusing on the urban areas, as well as concentrating on the un-used quantities of water and re-exploited by most advanced treatment system. The main key partner is the German Development Bank-KFW and other financial institutions; Tunisia benefited from the most advanced technology in this field, in



*Consultative meeting with Mr. Salah Houssini, Director General of Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wttc.org/-/media/files/reports/economic-impact-research/countries-2017/tunisia2017.pdf>

addition qualified technical professional has been sent to Germany for advance training.

It is imperative for the concerned institutions in Tunisia to actively work to replicate and exchange knowledge about this great achievement and effective model of cooperation with all countries. Therefore, the Tunisian government has signed several agreements with neighboring countries, in particular with Burkina Faso 1993 and Cote d'Ivoire in the field of water sanitation and treatment. The ONAS also sent professional team to Senegal and Mali in 1993 and 2005 respectively. ONAS also has contributed to the establishment of similar institutions in Senegal, Morocco 2002, Niger 2003, Egypt 1999, Algeria 2002, Mauritania 2008, Jordan 2007, Yemen 1998, Syria 2001 and Palestine 1999. The institutional framework in Tunisia took into consideration the need for South-South cooperation, therefore ONAS contributed to the establishment of the National Sanitations institutions in this great number of countries. The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation

coordinated the contracts agreed between ONAS and the foreign companies where professional engineers from ONAS contracted with these companies. Despite the tremendous work achieved by ONAS, but there are many obstacles in the overall coordination with the national institutions, based on the consultative meeting with ONAS Director and his team.

In the social sector, Tunisia has a strategy for social integration and poverty reduction, this strategy was based on a participatory approach involving all concerned parties and partners. As indicated in the Tunisia overview report prepared by the World Bank in October 2018 and based on official numbers, the 2015 poverty rate in the country was 15.2 percent, which was significantly lower than the rate of 20.5 % in 2010 and 23.1 % in 2005.

Nevertheless, regional disparities are explicit with the North West and Center West showing much higher poverty rates than the national rate: 28.4 percent and 30.8 percent,



*International Center for Training of Trainers and Pedagogical Innovation, Tunis*



*International Center for Training of Trainers and Pedagogical Innovation, Tunis*

respectively. In terms of policies targeted the poorest population, Tunisia has adopted an unconditional cash transfer program providing a social safety net (SSN) to about eight percent of the population. 28 percent of the population also receives health care insurance cards through this program for subsidized services<sup>7</sup>. In the legal framework, Tunisia has developed advanced legislation and laws in the field of social security, with a comprehensive coverage of the entire population, this legislation social framework has established good model of integrated advanced social components such as; women protection, Labor unions, disability, social dialogue and national solidarity. At the level of South-South cooperation, Tunisia has provided its expertise in disability and social security by sending experts to both Djibouti and Palestine benefiting from the Tunisian advance model of social and disability field. Tunisia has also established a Center for Social

Studies and Research in partnership with Brazil in the field of social protection, these trends supported goals 10 and 17 reduced inequalities and partnerships respectively. The World Bank WB has provided grant for the overall health coverage of 250 thousand disabled families.

Education in Tunisia featured with its good quality and meet the Dakar Declaration principles "Education for All", Tunisia as well-known as a country with long experience in teachers training and provided this experiences at national, regional and international levels, the International Center for Training of Trainers and Educational Innovation is spread over two premises :The head office and The annex of the ciffip. The two centers are characterized by high competency trainers, equipment, educational tools and well equipped training cadre in the field of training, preparation of teachers and curriculum development.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tunisia/overview>







## Part 4. Findings and Recommendations



## PART 4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 Findings

1. South-South Cooperation has been well defined and recognized in Tunisia, the country actively involved in activities related to South-South and Triangular cooperation through many sectors, where Tunisia provided its experiences, knowledge and offering its competency expertise to neighboring African and Arab countries.
2. Throughout the consultation and the survey responses, significant examples of successful solutions and innovation in most strategic areas identified as model for replication in other countries within the approach of South-South Cooperation.
3. Tunisia considered as a country with well-defined and established South-South coordination mechanism, the country practices South-South cooperation in many fields and replicated its accumulated experiences, expertise and knowledge through the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation.
4. The practices and the encouragement and involvement of development cooperation in South-South cooperation in Tunisia, including the strong will from the UNCT in enhancing and mainstreaming South-South and Triangular cooperation constitute a good basis for advancing SSC at bilateral and multilateral cooperation framework. Many government institutions and private sector benefited from the opportunities availed by many UN agencies and bilateral cooperation support.
5. The finance for SSC is so limited according to the survey responses and the consultative meeting, the opportunity for attracting and mobilizing resources from bilateral and multilateral development cooperation are broad due to the fact that these partners are very active in many filed of cooperation that closely relevant to SSC and 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
6. Tunisia International Center for Environmental Technologies –CITET one of the important and the first one in the region that significantly contributed to 2030 Agenda, financing technological innovation and systematically achieving sustainable technology in key basic and strategic services.
7. The current practices and the excellent initiatives implemented by both high and general education in the area of investing of the high caliber of Tunisian expertise, replication of good educational solutions, training, establishment of faculty in the region and knowledge sharing with African countries in the framework of SSC, were advanced model of SSC in the region and accordingly the country recognized as promoters of good quality education ,technical and vocational training in the region and beyond.
8. The successful development priority areas, namely tourist and National Sanitation Utility -ONAS could be good examples for replication of solution, as the EU supported tourism in

capacity building through Tunisia alternative tourism and WHO which considered tourism as main contributor to the country's economy. As well as ONAS benefitted from the advanced successful technology and experiences replicated from German.

## 4.2 Recommendations to the national stakeholders

- The post-2011 era and the progressive steps taken by the Transitional Tunisian Government in laying the rules of democracy and reforms in all government institutions, as well as the solid institutional preparation and innovation in all sectors within the framework of South-South cooperation, paves the way towards the unleashing of Tunisia's potential as a platform for good governance, technological transfer and innovation.
- The existing institutional arrangements for the coordination of South-South cooperation at the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation, consider a great opportunity to further expand and strengthen the coordination through the development of policies and strategies for South-South cooperation in addition to more coordination with relevant line ministries.
- The current mechanisms of South-South cooperation can play more proactive role and expand the scope of its local and regional cooperation, benefited from the accumulation of successful experiences, innovation and technology, all of which can be achieved through an independent institution that derives its powers from the highest authorities and has its own financial resources.
- The momentum that Tunisia is currently witnessing as being specific in deepening South-South cooperation, opens wide opportunities for further triangular cooperation and as well encourage more transfer of Tunisian experience and expertise within the Region and at the global level.
- The enabling political environment and the developments of technology, high education and new innovation in climate change, environment, and water will substantially contribute in transferring all of these comparative advantages to the region and other countries of the South.
- The contribution to strategic projects financed by multilateral cooperation in particular the European Union - EU and the United States Agency for International Development USAID, consider a model of equal partnerships based on win-win situation and can be replicated in the region and in globally, also it can be potential for triangular cooperation.
- Considering the National Sanitation Utility as an advanced institute in the country uses the most modern and new technologies in two sectors, which are priority, namely education and water, however expanding of the center to involve other sectors will greatly contribute to the national implementation of the SDGs and as well transfer of experience, knowledge and technology to the countries of the region.
- Tunisia has an existing institution for SSC and as well it takes the lead as national focal point, to strengthen the coordination and synergy among other line ministries and to be well equipped

with strong knowledge and financial resources, these require; more supportive policies and resources for South-South cooperation to enable it pursue its objectives effectively.

- Tunisia's national focal point for SSC is recommended to make use of the existing funding facilities within the framework of South-South cooperation, such as the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF). In addition to the regional institutions including Islamic Development Bank, Arab development funds such as Saudi, Qatar and Kuwait.

### 4.3 Recommendations to UNCT

- Based on the consultative meetings with the UNRC and UN agencies, there is strong interest to support South-South cooperation in Tunisia through several United Nations interventions by supporting the institutional frameworks, capacity building and facilitate sharing knowledge and experiences from the South countries to Tunisia, the proposed project initiated by the UNRC to support the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation can be a kick-off.
- Assist in advocating the benefits of South-South cooperation within the available opportunities and support from the potential partners of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms.
- To promote many innovations in the field of environment, health and education at the national, regional and global levels and position Tunisia's South-South as a pioneer country and provider for technical cooperation, the UN can play an advanced role in organizing conferences and events in various sector at the national and regional level, as well as sharing knowledge and reflect the experiences of other countries.
- Tunisia has the potential to become a regional hub for modern innovations in technology transfer in the field of sanitation, waste, urban and rural water networks, training in the fields of education and higher education, this allows for broad opportunities -through partners- to provide technical assistance, promotion and advocacy in support of South-South cooperation.

