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Agenda item 23 (b)

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Francesca **Cassar** (Malta)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 23 (see [A/77/448](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 23rd meeting, on 22 November 2022. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

II. Consideration of proposals

Draft resolutions [A/C.2/77/L.38](#) and [A/C.2/77/L.62](#)

2. At the 21st meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" ([A/C.2/77/L.38](#)).

3. At its 23rd meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution ([A/C.2/77/L.62](#)), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Francesca Cassar (Malta), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.38](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.62](#) had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.62](#) (see para. 8).

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbols [A/77/448](#), [A/77/448/Add.1](#) and [A/77/448/Add.2](#).

¹ See [A/C.2/77/SR.23](#).



6. Also at the 23rd meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.
7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.62](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.38](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 2019, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution [64/222](#) of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming further its resolution [33/134](#) of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹

Recalling its resolutions [57/270](#) B of 23 June 2003, [60/212](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/209](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/233](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/1](#) of 6 October 2009, [66/219](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/227](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/230](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/239](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/222](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/244](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/237](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/249](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/239](#) of 19 December 2019, [75/234](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/221](#) of 17 December 2021,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement² and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

² Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to the eradication of poverty, food security, energy security and the cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development, and is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and commending the contributions of all stakeholders of South-South and triangular cooperation, based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation to support developing countries in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery,

Welcoming the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and taking note of the adoption of its outcome document, the Bridgetown Covenant,⁴ and looking forward to the continued work of the Conference on issues related to South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and regional cooperation, including by promoting dialogue between economic integration structures with a view to enhancing mutual trade and exchanging best practices and experiences, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Recalls* the convening of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 and its outcome document,⁵ and calls upon the international community to support the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;⁶

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ [TD/541/Add.2](#).

⁵ Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

⁶ [A/77/297](#).

3. *Reaffirms its support* for the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, recalls its decisions 20/1 and 20/2 adopted during its twentieth session, held from 1 to 4 June 2021, and calls for the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

4. *Encourages* the continuation and advancement of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for continued support from the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, particularly in areas such as equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, as well as digitalization, the environment, climate change, social protection and the eradication of poverty;

5. *Takes note* of the various experiences and locally driven development approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of learning and sharing good practices, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation through platforms such as South-South Galaxy, the Global South-South Development Expo, regional sustainable development forums and other knowledge-sharing platforms supported by the different entities of the United Nations system;

6. *Welcomes* the organization of the eleventh Global South-South Development Expo in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2022, under the theme “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future”;

7. *Looks forward* to the Third South Summit, to be held in Kampala from 10 to 12 December 2023;

8. *Also looks forward* to the ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation, to be held in Doha in March 2023, on the margins of the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

9. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including scaling up contributions to the United Nations trust fund for South-South cooperation and other relevant financing mechanisms to enable the United Nations development system to advance South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives championed by developing countries, with sufficient resources;

10. *Encourages* United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating development cooperation perspectives, including, in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives, into the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national review reports on sustainable development;

11. *Notes that*, within the context of the broader reforms of the United Nations development system, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation has the potential to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation through galvanizing the expertise of United Nations organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system, including United Nations entities, to continue mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at the country level, as appropriate, as a means to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, commends the efforts of the different entities of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, takes note with appreciation of the work done by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, through inclusive mechanisms, in particular South-South cooperation initiatives established by developing countries, and calls upon it to work in collaboration with the United Nations system organizations and the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation;

12. *Welcomes* the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, which marks a breakthrough in its measurement, as well as the role of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development co-custodianship in undertaking the work on this framework, including on capacity-building, led by countries of the global South and building on country-led mechanisms, and acknowledges the importance of exploring possible options for the measurement of triangular cooperation;

13. *Recognizes* the need to scale up and strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, including for the use, capacity-building and transfer of digital technologies, on mutually agreed terms, to close the digital divides;

14. *Also recognizes* the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development, as well as in achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

15. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including the implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference.
