



South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

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South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

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

Reaffirming also the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/222](#) of 21 December 2009,²

Reaffirming further the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 2019,³

Recalling its decision 19/1, as well as General Assembly resolution [75/234](#) of 21 December 2020,

Reaffirming General Assembly 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, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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 General Assembly resolution [64/222](#), annex.

³ General Assembly resolution [73/291](#), annex.



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 General Assembly 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 global 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 Agreement,⁴ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and recognizing its increased importance, different history and particularities, stressing that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and reiterating that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit,

Reaffirming also the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encouraging developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and committing to further strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation,

Recalling that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

Noting with great concern the threat to 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 sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Further noting that the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare systemic weaknesses and exacerbated our world's vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries, accentuated systemic challenges and risks and threatens to halt or obliterate progress made in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by all countries, especially developing countries, including countries in special situations and countries facing specific challenges,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in implementing decision 19/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with emphasis on enhancing the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and in implementing the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,⁶

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,⁷

Taking note further of the measures taken in the implementation of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Office, and the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Stresses* that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is a key intergovernmental body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South and triangular cooperation;
2. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;
3. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, during the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, further information on the specific assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the Office deriving from his designation as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, taking into consideration the requests made by Member States to improve the impact as well as strengthen the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Office under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources;
4. *Stresses* the need for improving the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and acknowledges the steps taken by the Office in this regard;
5. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its role in encouraging joint support to South-South and triangular initiatives and sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations

⁶ [SSC/20/2](#).

⁷ [SSC/20/1](#).

through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation;

6. *Recognizes* that some United Nations entities and agencies have stepped up their support to South-South initiatives, including in policy coordination, capacity development, research and analysis, networking, partnership-building and funding, and requests all funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not already done so to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies and strategic frameworks, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates;

7. *Also recognizes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation by continuing to increase their respective mutual accountability and transparency, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner, and in this regard encourages relevant partners to further enhance development effectiveness of both modalities and to assess their impact, taking into account, as applicable, the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;⁸

8. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

9. *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 many United Nations organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation;

10. *Reiterates* that the entities of the United Nations development system should enhance their support to South-South and triangular cooperation, at the request and with the ownership and leadership of developing countries, through a system-wide approach, bearing in mind their respective mandates and comparative advantages;

11. *Stresses* that the increased global interdependence resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic requires urgent and strengthened solidarity and international cooperation, including through South-South and triangular cooperation;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, other partners and donors to urgently support funding and close the funding gap for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and its mechanisms, such as the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and support equitable distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring continuity and strengthening of essential health services;

13. *Encourages* development partners and other relevant stakeholders to consider further increasing their support to developing countries through United Nations mechanisms, including the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, the Secretary-General's United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund in order to assist developing countries in controlling the spread and limiting the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;

⁸ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

14. *Urges* Member States to enable global equitable, affordable and timely access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and health-care services, including as supported through the COVAX Facility and other relevant initiatives, especially in low- and middle-income countries, accelerating the global recovery and contributing to putting an end to the pandemic;

15. *Welcomes* the networks and exchanges between Southern institutions in developing countries, and requests the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in close collaboration with Member States, to further foster dialogue and collaboration with and among such institutions, building upon the work undertaken at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation to address pressing development challenges, including those emerging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to report on the outcome in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

16. *Also welcomes* innovations that enhance and expand South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard recognizes the importance of reinforcing partnership-building, including engaging with partners in government, civil society, academia and the private sector, and of resource mobilization, including contributions to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, third-party cost-sharing, parallel financing, in-kind contributions and special fund management arrangements such as those of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund and the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on progress made in implementing the present decision, including the recommendations and proposals made in his report, to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-first session, in 2023;

19. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide an update of the support to interregional initiatives, and progress made by the Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for the promotion and facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation in his report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-first session.