**Talking Points**

**Naoko Ishii**

**South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum**

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*~5 minutes*

Good morning everyone. Excellences, colleagues, friends.

It is a great pleasure for me to take part in this session on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change organized by the Chinese government.

I would like to begin with recognizing and congratulating China on its leadership role in the fight against climate change. China has rightly put South-South cooperation at the center of the global efforts on climate change. China has pledged very generous resources to support South-South efforts, and are taking many steps to make China’s own experiences available for to make its own experiences for other countries.

South-South cooperation can be a way to quickly scale up global action, by channeling lessons learned about both what works and what doesn’t work, and in that way drive implementation rapidly forward. I believe this was very much on the mind of President Xi Jinping when he announced the establishment of the Chinese South-South Cooperation Trust Fund back in 2015.

In the GEF we fully share the view that South-South cooperation is key. And for this reason we are building strong knowledge sharing platforms into several of our flagship programs on for example on low-carbon urban development, food security and others.

Our Moroccan hosts of COP22 has emphasized that this COP should focus on action and implementation. This is the right approach, both for climate action in general and for our efforts to scale up South-South Cooperation.

The opportunities, and the needs, are many. What we need to do now, is to focus our efforts to respond to them.

From the GEF’s perspective we can offer a number of platforms for enhanced South-South cooperation:

One [that I have mentioned on a number occasions] are our sustainable cities program that we launched last year. We have seen very strong interest from cities around to world to participate in the program, exactly because the program puts a strong emphasis on knowledge sharing. Cities have a lot to gain from learning from each other, and I see a huge interest from mayors and city leaders to engage in such learning. In the next phase, we need to take this part of the program to the next level, and I hope we can work together to materialize this.

Another platform is the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency—CBIT—that will be officially launched here at the Marrakesh COP next week. Increasing transparency and enhancing countries’ capacity for monitoring and evaluation are lynchpins for the Paris Agreement. I am pleased that a number of donors are already lined up to support the initiative. Equally important, we have already received a number of requests for support from developing countries, which reflects the importance that many countries attach to this issue. I am very happy that we have been able to respond so quickly—it will allow us to see early action on the ground, and to rapidly being capturing lessons learned that will be important for scaling up these efforts. Going forward, the CBIT will require further strenghtening, so that is another opportunity for all of us to work together.

My last example of a possible opportunity to strengthen south-south cooperation is a bit more speculative from my side, but I think it has a large potential. This is South-South Cooperation around greening the financial system. In part spearheaded by the G20, the past couple of years have seen a huge increase in efforts to green the financial system through better disclosure, reporting, innovation, and regulation. So many initiatives are being tried out, and because they focus on the financial sector, in many cases we see impacts very rapidly. For this reason I believe it is an area that is ripe for more focus on South-South Cooperation.

From the GEF’s side, we are keen to work with you on all these areas, and more, to ramp up South-South Cooperation efforts.

Many thanks.