

NATIONS UNIES  UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Observer Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to attach the letter dated 9 November 2009, and its attachment, by the Co-Facilitators for the informal consultations on the High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and wishes to inform that the next informal consultations will be held on Wednesday, 11 November, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The Office of the President of the General Assembly takes this opportunity to reiterate all Permanent Missions and Observer Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York
9 November 2009

JB

All Permanent Missions
and Permanent Observer Missions
to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of
Iceland to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the Republic
of Yemen to the United Nations

Monday, 9th November 2009.

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-facilitators of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, it is our pleasure to forward to you herewith the draft outcome document that we have prepared. We have sought to produce a balanced text, based on the views of Member states expressed in our previous informal meetings.

We would like to inform you that our next informal meeting will take place next Wednesday, 11 November 2009.

Please accept Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gunnar Pálsson'.

H.E. Dr. Gunnar Pálsson
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Iceland to the UN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abdallah M. Alsaïdi'.

H.E. Mr. Abdallah M. Alsaïdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Yemen to the UN

High Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation

Draft Outcome Document

1. We, Heads of State and Government and High representatives gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 3 December 2009 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which produced the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, a seminal document that has since guided cooperation among developing countries.
2. Since the Buenos Aires meeting, many developing countries have attained impressive socio-economic gains and a growing number of them have emerged as middle-income economies with pivotal roles in South-South cooperation. The increasing economic dynamism of some developing countries in recent years has imparted greater energy to regional integration initiatives across the developing world, seen among other things in the creation of regional common markets, custom unions, institutional and regulatory frameworks, and interstate transport and communications networks.
3. At the same time, we duly note that many developing countries continue to suffer from serious socio-economic deficits, and most of them are not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. While some developing countries have successfully advanced their economic and social developments, inter alia through the effective use of information and communication technologies, the vast majority of the people across the South are still unable to access the benefits of advanced modern technologies.
4. Furthermore, we recognize that transnational challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis, the impacts of climate change, food insecurity and communicable diseases have the potential to reverse the gains achieved throughout the South and hence require collective action.
5. In view of these and other challenges, we affirm the key role the United Nations, its agencies, funds and programmes in promoting cooperation among developing countries. We reaffirm the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and reiterate our resolve to fully implement the plan as a major milestone in the evolution of South-South cooperation. We further recommit ourselves to the outcomes of all major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the economic, social and related fields, and all General Assembly resolutions relevant to South-South and triangular cooperation.

* * * * *

6. We reaffirm our view of South-South cooperation as the physical expression of solidarity between peoples and countries and acknowledge their mutual responsibilities for their wellbeing national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of

internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. While constituting both a development agenda and a means to effect developmental gains, the principles of respect for national sovereignty, economic independence, equal rights and non-interference in domestic affairs continue to guide its application.

7. We reiterate that South-South cooperation a development agenda, should be driven by developing countries themselves, and based on national ownership of developmental strategies and goals. South-South cooperation also recognizes the pursuit of multilateralism as a critical element in addressing development challenges, based on a foundational principle of mutual benefit.
8. We recognize that as a mechanism of economic growth and sustainable development, South-South cooperation takes different forms, including the sharing of knowledge and experiences, technology transfer, financial contributions and in-kind transfers and, may therefore be difficult to quantify.
9. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for North-South cooperation. Rather, it is a complement to North-South cooperation as it enables developing countries, among other things, to better adapt and absorb appropriate inputs from developed countries.
10. We recognize that South-South cooperation is an integral part of the wider agenda of international cooperation for development. To increase its impact, support and participation by developed countries is required, particularly in the form of triangular partnership wherein developed countries provide the necessary resources for sharing and pooling of knowledge, experience and resources among developing countries.
11. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation is also meant to be conducted and managed in accordance with the previously established Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC/13/3). These guidelines reflect an emphasis on the use of South-South cooperation in the areas of financing, collection and distribution of data and information, training, focal points, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within UNDP, networking, procedures and reporting on South-South Cooperation.

* * * * *

12. In the application of South-South cooperation, there are a number of critical areas to be addressed, including trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, desertification, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, education, health, including communicable diseases, promotion of biodiversity as part of the solution to climate change, technology transfer, rural development, water, transit, agriculture and related North-South issues.
13. At the same time NGOs, the business community, private foundations, universities and other actors are emerging as key development partners and have contributed significantly to meeting development challenges and objectives in both developed and

developing countries. These are important developments that need to be taken into consideration in designing strategies and procedures for international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation.

14. In order to fulfill the potential of South-South Cooperation and to attain the objectives of fostering and strengthening collective and national self-reliance, strengthening institutional and technical capacities, improving communication among developing countries, responding to the challenges of those countries under special development circumstances, increasing the quality of international cooperation and enabling developing countries to attain a greater degree of participation in international economic activities; we:
15. Invite developing countries in a position to do so to increase their allocation of resources for South-South initiatives.
16. Invite developed countries to give further priority and support to South-South cooperation including through triangular arrangements for capacity development which should be demand-driven and designed to support country ownership of development policies and strategies, in an harmonized and effective manner.
17. Encourage developing countries to develop systems to evaluate the quality and impact of their own South-South cooperation programs and to cooperate with United Nations in the development of methodologies to this end, while bearing in mind the unique characteristics of South-South cooperation. Also, we encourage developing countries to strengthen their national coordination mechanisms in order to improve the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation.
18. Urge developing countries to establish national focal points for South-South cooperation and encourage those countries that have already done so to ensure that these focal points are functioning effectively and efficiently.
19. Recommend that developing countries increase efforts in technology cooperation, broader technological developments such as technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development.
20. Call for the strengthening of various interregional dialogues and exchange of experiences among sub-regional and regional economic groupings for the purposes of expanding South-South cooperation through integrating the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.
21. Recognize that international support to South-South cooperation in trade and other areas can be catalytic in strengthening and consolidating regional and sub-regional economic integration and urge multilateral organizations to support regional economic integration as well as bilateral trade agreements and ensure that these agreements promote long-term development and become building blocks in the multilateral trading system.

22. Urge multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions to intensify efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, as important delivery tools for assistance.
23. Urge international financial institutions, as well as regional and sub-regional development banks, which provide strategic resources in the form of technical assistance for areas such as institution-building and the promotion of good governance, to continue their support to projects that promote sub-regional and regional integration among developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
24. Encourage multilateral and bilateral financial and development institution to make development assistance more beneficial and to intensify efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, including with least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition.

* * * * *

25. We acknowledge the need to reinvigorate the United Nations system as fundamental to the promotion of international cooperation for development and to a global economic system that works for all. To this effect we:
 26. Encourage the United Nations system to give further priority to promoting and supporting South-South cooperation. It must strengthen the capacities of developing countries to collectively negotiate and implement international and regional agreements and treaties, enhance the capacities of developing countries to develop and formulate development cooperation programmes, strengthen the capacities of regional and subregional organizations and conduct research to identify areas where its support to South-South cooperation will have the greatest impact.
 27. Urge the United Nations to take concrete measures to mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to achieve their national goals, with special emphasis on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
28. Call upon the United Nations to enhance coherence and effectiveness in providing support to the countries of the South. United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes should focus their operational activities on country needs, coordinate their activities and produce practical results taking into account South-South approaches and modalities. At the global level, a renewed effort is needed, both through the governing bodies of the United Nations programmes, funds, agencies and financial institutions, as well as through the United Nations system Chief Executives Board, to ensure system-wide

policy coherence and consistency and to maximize synergies for South-South and triangular cooperation.

29. We call furthermore on United Nations Regional Commissions to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South co-operation and in strengthening their technical support to countries of their regions.
30. Invite the ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum to work closely with the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to review trends and coherence in South-South cooperation and serve as an information exchange platform to promote voluntary efforts by developing countries to strengthen South-South Cooperation, to debate ways of maximizing its impact, as well as to promote triangular cooperation and evaluate its impact.
31. Request the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as regional commissions, to help developing countries establish or strengthen existing South-South centers of excellence, within their respective areas of competence, and ensure closer cooperation among such centers of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern, and in this context encourages such institutions and centers of excellence, as well as regional and sub-regional economic groupings to establish closer links and bridges among themselves, with the support of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation through its Global South-South Development Academy, Global South-South Development Expo, and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange.
32. Reaffirm the mandate of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, while serving as the full Secretariat of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation; organizing the annual United Nation Day for South-South Cooperation; supporting the work of national South-South focal points and coordinating the United Nations inter-agency South-South focal points system; and managing the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.
33. Invite the Secretary-General, in consultation with member states of the United Nations, to take measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as reaffirmed by General Assembly resolutions 58/220, 60/212 and 62/209, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation including triangular cooperation. In this context, we welcome the decision made by the Secretary-General on 23 August 2008, directing the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to develop a concise, action-oriented, collaborative framework highlighting the United Nation's specific comparative strengths in South-South Cooperation in addressing transnational development challenges, in particular food security, climate change, deforestation, desertification and

HIV/AIDS, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations system South-South focal points.

34. Emphasize that South-South Cooperation needs additional and innovative financing from UN funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations. In this regard, we call upon the Governing bodies of United Nations system to allocate additional resources to supporting this form of cooperation and urge them to devise and use innovative financing mechanisms to support South-South cooperation.
35. Recognize the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, and, in this context, invites all countries, in position to do so, to contribute in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Perez-Gurrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, bearing in mind the need for these Funds to continue to use such resources in an effective manner, and decides to include the latter Fund in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as long as it exists. In this context, reaffirm that existing regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and encourages the Special Unit to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation.
36. We convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Kenya and its people for the excellent organization and hosting of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the warm hospitality extended to us in the city of Nairobi.