

8 December 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Opening of the High-level Meeting on South-South and  
Triangular Cooperation “Effective Partnership towards Innovative  
Development Solutions”**

*Delivered by Ambassador Tariq Ali al-Ansari, Deputy Chef de Cabinet, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly*

Mr. Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director-General of the Technical Cooperation Department here at FAO.

Mr. Hideya Yamada, Minister-Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Embassy of Japan to the UN Agencies in Rome.

Miss Angsana Sihapitak, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency.

Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Distinguished Moderators and Panelists,

Distinguished Delegates,

VIPs, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning ... I hope you have been enjoying the Expo and all events so far.

I have the honour to deliver this opening statement on behalf of the President of the Un General Assembly, His Excellency, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser ...

“I am pleased to be with you today for the opening of the high-level meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. I would like to thank FAO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which have worked collaboratively to ensure the success of this meeting.

Japan’s role here represents a good example of triangular cooperation.

South-South and triangular cooperation has become a major subject of international development discussion. Although the long-term prospects for continued growth of the South and expansion of South-South Development Cooperation remain positive, major challenges lie ahead. On the other hand, these challenges present opportunities to reform and introduce new approaches to dealing with common problems and promoting further regional cooperation. This meeting today aims to introduce innovative South-South and triangular solutions and explore new opportunities for effective partnership.

South-South cooperation today includes the exchange of technologies, knowledge and experiences – and every country, regardless of its size or economic status, has something to offer. The South-South agenda has become an amazingly inclusive development agenda, welcoming participation from all countries – both North and South – and across all sectors in addressing virtually every development concern.

Effective approaches to South-South and triangular cooperation can include capacity development, peer learning, and the sharing of successful practices in the field. The importance of knowledge exchange through South-South and triangular cooperation was emphasized at the High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi in December 2009. The resulting Nairobi Outcome Document urged, “United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to take concrete measures to mainstream support for 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 and triangular cooperation [...]”.

It is important for us to pursue and implement these recommendations of the Nairobi Outcome Document.

So, I am very grateful for the opportunity to open this meeting and I would like to encourage Member States and partners to strengthen the role of South-South and triangular cooperation for development, and to promote new opportunities and collectively work toward sustained economic growth and development.

Allow me in this regard, to offer the support of the UN General Assembly to your endeavours, including through my personal engagement and support for the very important agenda of South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Once again, I thank our partners for supporting this initiative.

It is now my pleasure to declare this High-Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, officially opened.

Thank you.