



**United Nations**  
Office for South-South Cooperation

**Director's Speech at the COP23 High-Level Forum on  
South-South Cooperation on Climate Change**

**15 November 2017  
COP23, Bonn, Germany**

His Excellency Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji,

His Excellency Minister Xie Zhenhua of China,

Distinguished Delegates from Member States,

Dear colleagues and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the High-Level Forum during COP23.

We are here today to celebrate the solidarity of the South in tackling their development challenges, and to maintain that solidarity for our collective development and climate progress.

Since the beginning of this century, we have seen remarkable advances across the global South. Sustainable development cooperation among the global South is also expanding and strengthening.

Solutions, aspirations and collaboration are flourishing in the South, and delivering results globally.

Development cooperation initiatives are being led by developing countries, including the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Community Vision 2025 of ASEAN countries, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Belt & Road Initiative, among others.

These efforts open up new opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and they are generating new platforms for pragmatic South-South climate cooperation, contributing to the implementation of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Countries are recognizing, welcoming and supporting the complimentary role of South-South cooperation in addressing climate change.

It is a valuable tool with even greater potential to be further unlocked and taken to scale.

It is in this context that the Secretary-General of the United Nations established his *South-South Cooperation Action Plan*, as the basis of an integrated United Nations system effort to implement his *Climate Change Engagement Strategy*. My office will support and coordinate the United Nations system to implement this Action Plan.

I am very glad that my fellow colleagues, heads of the United Nations entities, have expressed their support for implementing the Action Plan. The United Nations will be a coordinated and strengthened system to

support developing countries in strengthening their climate partnership, including via South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

The Action Plan was established based on experiences from the global South, and it will be implemented in response to demand from the global South. Above all, it will be owned and supported by the global South.

We look forward to continuing consultations and cooperating with Member States and other stakeholders for its implementation.

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change binds us all together, beyond borders, generations, economic situations, gender and ethnic groups.

No country can address alone the many challenges of climate change facing mankind; and no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation.

For our survival, we cannot miss what opportunities remain to address climate challenges.

We need to take climate actions in line with ambition, equity and national circumstances.

Climate actions are also serving countries' sustainable development aspirations, and only partnership can deliver on the goals we envisioned in the Paris Agreement.

I would like to welcome the just-concluding China 19<sup>th</sup> National Party Congress, during which Chinese leadership called on the people of all countries to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind – to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

The proposal is timely and pragmatic.

Very encouragingly, Southern countries are acting on climate cooperation, including the many signature initiatives proposed by Brazil, China, Fiji, India, and Morocco, among others. At the same time, we are also witnessing a groundswell of climate collaborations from non-State actors in the global South. The Pavilion here and those of many other countries and stakeholders have shown us what can be achieved.

In concluding, I would like to especially thank China for co-hosting this event with my office, and for His Excellency Minister Xie's keynote speech.

I also want to thank our special guest, His Excellency Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji, COP23 President, for his keynote remarks and for supporting the event.

We greatly appreciate the support of our fellow colleagues of UN entities, as well as other international organizations and civil society groups, including WWF, the South Centre, and the GEF.

Last but not least, I look forward to hearing the statements from Member States in the next session and I also highly appreciate their presence today.

My office stands ready to work with you all to promote South-South climate cooperation.