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Operational activities for development:
South-South cooperation for development

South Africa:* draft resolution

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and 68/230 of 20 December 2013,

Noting General Assembly resolution 69/239 of 19 December 2014 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

* 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.



Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Abba 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 and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries, as well as positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth,

Noting that 2018 will mark the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Stressing the importance of inclusivity within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the decision adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its special intersessional meeting held on 8, 14 and 15 September 2015;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;²

3. *Recognizes* that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its report on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system,³ provides recommendations to the United Nations development system on implementing measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and takes note of the accompanying note by the Secretary-General;

4. *Also recognizes* the importance and unique history and particularities of South-South cooperation, reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ and also reaffirms that South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and 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;

5. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

6. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance;

7. *Requests* continued integration of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds, programmes and specialized

² [A/70/344](#).

³ [JIU/REP/2011/3](#).

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

agencies of the United Nations system, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make specific recommendations on additional support that United Nations system organizations and all States could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation, which could include, inter alia, voluntary secondment of staff and the appointment of Junior Professional Officers to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, as well as measures to strengthen the system-wide efficiency and impact of the Office;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make necessary adjustments, as appropriate, to the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,⁵ in consultation with all States and organizations of the United Nations development system;

10. *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 requests the Secretary-General, noting that further deliberation by all States on the options presented in his report on measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation⁶ will be required before a decision is taken on the idea of separating the Office for South-South Cooperation as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, to be held in 2016, in consultation with all States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role of and improve the impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources, including through the potential appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, and, at the same time, recommending specific contributions of the United Nations Development Programme under such a change, with the view to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Reiterates* the request to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support to South-South and triangular initiatives and sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, calls upon the United Nations development system to designate representational focal points to join the mechanism, and requests the Administrator to give the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed;

⁵ [SSC/17/3](#).

⁶ See [SSC/18/3](#).

12. *Welcomes with satisfaction* progress made on establishing the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team of the United Nations Development Group, for a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and on designating United Nations development system focal points to join the mechanism, and reiterates its request to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to give the Office the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, including sharing best practices and experiences from the South, especially with least developed countries, upon request and in a manner consistent with their mandates and strategic plans;

14. *Requests* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

16. *Further requests* the United Nations development system to promote and support South-South cooperation in the areas of science and technology through the North-South transfer of technologies;

17. *Recognizes* the important role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and in this context requests the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to update and create new tools and mechanisms for the United Nations system to effectively support Member States in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

18. *Acknowledges* the positive efforts made by United Nations organizations to develop thematic strategies for the implementation of South-South cooperation, and in that regard urges the United Nations development system, in consultation with Member States, to strive to increasingly leverage, as appropriate, South-South cooperation to bolster its impact in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Requests* the United Nations system to enhance its support of the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, namely, policy coordination, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge and technological innovations;

20. *Acknowledges* the support by developing countries to South-South and triangular initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and food security, and invites the replication of this approach in other areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, drawing on the technical expertise of various United Nations organizations;

21. *Takes note* that, in response to the growing demand for support to South-South cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, the regional commissions have advanced South-South cooperation by undertaking policy research and analysis on issues of importance to their member States, convening high-level policy dialogues, forging strategic partnerships and promoting specific capacity-development and other initiatives, and in that regard requests the regional commissions to support developing countries, upon request, to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their nationally owned sustainable development strategies, in areas such as regional development planning and fiscal frameworks, and to promote policy coherence and coordination and the enhancement of data and statistical capacities of Member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Urges* the United Nations system to continue its support to regional and subregional organizations, enabling their member countries to build more partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to promoting and scaling up best practices with the potential to benefit a large number of developing countries;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, to provide an update on the concrete steps undertaken, and on their impact, to further strengthen South-South cooperation within the United Nations development system;

24. *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 also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

25. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including an assessment of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve its support to South-South cooperation, and on the implementation of the present resolution.