

Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries IFCC-XII), Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 10-13 June 2008

Yamoussoukro Consensus on South-South Cooperation

1. South-South cooperation is a common endeavor of peoples and countries of the South, based on their common objectives and solidarity. It is vital to the development efforts of our countries and requires support and resources from the North. It was also stated that South-South cooperation cannot replace North-South cooperation, and should not replace North-South cooperation. The North has an obligation, both in its own national interests, and in the interest of global harmony, equity, and development, to fulfill its commitments through North-South cooperation. In this context, the current international architecture for development cooperation needs to be reformulated in order to respond to the new realities and opportunities for development including triangular cooperation.

2. Given the increasing prominence that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation will play in international relations, it is critical for us to ensure that there is clarity in the conceptual framework underlining South-South cooperation. In this regard, the essential elements of this conceptual framework should include the following:

- South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South;
- South-South cooperation must not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation. Strengthening South-South cooperation must not be a measure of coping with the receding interest of the developed world in assisting developing countries;
- Cooperation between countries of the South must not be analyzed and evaluated using the same standards as those used for North-South relations;
- Financial contributions from other developing countries should not be seen as Official Development Assistance from these countries to other countries of the South. These are merely expressions of solidarity and cooperation borne out of shared experiences and sympathies.

3. South-South cooperation is a development agenda based on premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations. South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion. Therefore, it is up to the developing countries to promote and build on South-South cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and interregional levels including triangular cooperation with the support of the UN system particularly the Special Unit for South-South cooperation which requires further strengthening in order to enable it to fulfill its mandate.

4. As a priority South-South cooperation must be pursued as an expression of South-South solidarity and a strategy for economic independence and self-reliance of the South. In this context, the conference welcomed the progress made in the implementation of various projects and initiatives by Member States in various fields of South-South cooperation and invited the Chair of the Group of 77 to establish a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of South-

South cooperation projects presented in Annex I of the Doha Plan of Action as well as other projects and initiatives on South-South cooperation undertaken by Member States, including the creation of a database system.

5. There is a need to maximize the potentialities and complementarities of the South as well as other development opportunities among developing countries. Today, there is a need for the South to address in a dynamic way the economic problems facing the developing countries including the current global food crisis. In this context, the conference welcomed the initiative by Côte d'Ivoire to establish a financial mechanism for stabilization of food prices as well as a South fund for investments in Africa. An Expert Group Meeting will be convened in the nearest future in order to examine both initiatives and to formulate appropriate follow-up action.

6. In preparation for the forthcoming High-level UN conference on South-South cooperation to be held in 2009 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/209, it was recommended that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level, including the participation of Heads of States and Governments. The Conference should be action-oriented with an outcome resulting in a comprehensive plan of action and a declaration. An Advisory Group will be set up by the Chair of G-77 in order to reflect further on the objectives and the expectations of the Conference.

7. Finally, the Conference agreed to launch the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance (document G-77/IFCC-XII/7) and welcomed the Development Platform for the South (G-77/IFCC-XII/6) as presented by the Chairman of the Group of 77.