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Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/78/465/Add.2, para. 7)*]

78/167. South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 73/291 of 15 April 2019, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also 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 further 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, 68/230 of 20 December 2013, 69/239 of 19 December 2014, 70/222 of 22 December 2015, 71/244 of 21 December 2016, 72/237 of 20 December 2017, 73/249 of 20 December 2018, 74/239 of 19 December 2019, 75/234 of 21 December 2020, 76/221 of 17 December 2021 and 77/185 of 14 December 2022,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest

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.



global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa 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, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement² and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development, and is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and commending the contributions of all stakeholders of South-South and triangular cooperation, based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation to support developing countries in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response and recovery, in line with national development priorities and the principles of South-South cooperation as outlined in resolution [73/291](#),

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Encouraging the continuation and advancement of South-South and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calling for continued support from the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication and food security, as well as reducing inequalities, and promoting resilience, including through the establishment of vaccine production facilities in developing countries and strengthening of health systems and economic diversification in developing countries,

² Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing that an unprecedented level of regional and global solidarity is required to overcome the multiple impacts of the pandemic on developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and taking into account the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and to prepare for and prevent future health emergencies,

Recognizing also that climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing geopolitical tensions and conflicts and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to the eradication of poverty, food security, energy security and the cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

Welcoming the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and taking note of the adoption of its outcome document, the Bridgetown Covenant,⁴ and looking forward to the continued work of the Conference on issues related to South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and regional cooperation, including by promoting dialogue between economic integration structures with a view to enhancing mutual trade and exchanging best practices and experiences, towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming also the ongoing efforts to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of trade under the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as a vehicle to support economic resilience and promote sustainable development, and looking forward to the continued work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support this endeavour,

Welcoming further the development of an initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, which marks a breakthrough in its measurement on the basis of country-led mechanisms and helps shed light on the importance of South-South cooperation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

Reaffirming 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 noting with appreciation the actions taken by the Office in strengthening the United Nations system-wide coordination on South-South and triangular cooperation through the convening of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which has served as a channel to facilitate the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation into the corporate strategies and operational activities of United Nations entities, as well as noting the development of a handbook on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation in the voluntary national reviews in collaboration with the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews, Morocco and the Philippines,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Recalls the convening of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 and its outcome*

⁴ TD/541/Add.2.

document,⁵ and calls upon the international community to support the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;⁶

3. *Reaffirms its support* for the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, recalls its decisions 21/1 and 21/2 adopted during its twenty-first session, held from 30 May to 2 June 2023, and calls for the full implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

4. *Encourages* the continuation and advancement of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for continued support from the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, particularly in areas such as equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, as well as digitalization, the environment, climate change, social protection and the eradication of poverty;

5. *Welcomes* the support of development partners for triangular cooperation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the global South, and urges developed countries to continue providing financial, scientific and technological assistance to developing countries, to close the digital divides and to better harness science, technology and innovation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

6. *Urges* Member States and United Nations entities to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation on access to science, technology and innovation by creating synergies, developing expertise and boosting resources in different regions and institutions, and in this regard notes with appreciation the convening of the Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation by the Group of 77 and China, in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2023, as an effort to boost cooperation in this field to increase its benefit to all people;

7. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to establish or strengthen coordinated mechanisms at the subnational, national, regional and global levels to leverage the expertise and other resources of multi-stakeholder partnerships to support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation initiatives towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while acknowledging that governments have the principal role of coordinating and leading development efforts;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation held in 2023 during the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in Doha, on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Takes note* of the various experiences and locally driven development approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of learning and sharing good practices, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation through platforms such as South-South

⁵ Resolution [73/291](#), annex.

⁶ [A/78/290](#).

⁷ Resolution [70/1](#).

Galaxy, the Global South-South Development Expo, regional sustainable development forums and other knowledge-sharing platforms supported by the different entities of the United Nations system;

10. *Welcomes* the organization of the eleventh Global South-South Development Expo in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2022, under the theme “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future”;

11. *Looks forward* to the Third South Summit, to be held in Kampala from 21 to 23 January 2024;

12. *Also looks forward* to the convening of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Rwanda from 18 to 21 June 2024, both of which will, *inter alia*, provide the opportunity to the international community to scale its support to small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in their efforts to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve sustainable development;

13. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including scaling up contributions to the United Nations trust fund for South-South cooperation and other relevant financing mechanisms to enable the United Nations development system to advance South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives championed by developing countries, with sufficient resources;

14. *Recognizes* the growing debt burden of developing countries, and also recognizes the role of the United Nations, within its mandates, to facilitate South-South exchanges of knowledge on debt to help countries of the South;

15. *Also recognizes* the need to enhance the provision and mobilization of adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so, in particular developed countries, to scale up the contributions, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries;

16. *Highlights* that 20 December 2023 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and acknowledges the Trust Fund’s effectiveness in providing catalytic support to South-South cooperation, underscoring the enduring partnership between the Group of 77 and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

17. *Encourages* United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating development cooperation perspectives, including, in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives, into the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national review reports on sustainable development;

18. *Notes* that, within the context of the broader reforms of the United Nations development system, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation has the potential to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation through galvanizing the expertise of United Nations organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system, including United Nations entities, to continue mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at the country level, as appropriate, as a means to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, commends the

efforts of the different entities of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, takes note with appreciation of the work done by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, through inclusive mechanisms, in particular South-South cooperation initiatives established by developing countries, and calls upon it to work in collaboration with the United Nations system organizations and the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system entities to further integrate, as appropriate, South-South and triangular cooperation into their strategic frameworks and planning instruments, and urges them to allocate sufficient financial resources dedicated to supporting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its role as a custodian, to strengthen capacity-building on the initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation based on country-led mechanisms, recommends that the United Nations development system support the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in raising awareness and developing the capacity of national statistical offices and cooperation agencies to use this framework, and acknowledges the importance of exploring possible options for the measurement of triangular cooperation;

21. *Recognizes* the contribution of and the need to scale up and strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation as a complementary means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, including in achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the goals of, *inter alia*, ending hunger, reducing inequalities, within and among countries, as well as for the use, capacity-building and transfer of digital technologies, on mutually agreed terms, to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and close the digital divides;

22. *Also recognizes* the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development, as well as in achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

23. *Further recognizes* the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in enhancing connectivity and digital transformation within and among developing countries, and in this regard invites the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations system, in line with their respective mandates, to support efforts to develop and implement policies to bridge the digital divides and fast-track digital transformation to improve the delivery of public services in the South;

24. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including the implementation of the outcome document of the second High-level Conference;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, the sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”.