



**Technical cooperation among
developing countries**

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Tenth session
New York, 5-9 May 1997

REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES
PLAN OF ACTION AND THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration of the 20th annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York in September 1996,

Welcoming also the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in January 1997,

Noting with appreciation the final document of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, India, in April 1997,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Reaffirms the tremendous potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries that have not yet done so to elaborate national policies

and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the discernible efforts made by both developing countries and the United Nations development system to increase the application of technical cooperation among developing countries in development cooperation and its increasingly important role in bilateral and multilateral relations, including, inter alia, the expanded use of capacity and needs-matching exercises, which have culminated in a significant number of bilateral agreements, as well as activities related to training, transfer of technology, reconstruction, and the exchange of experience in various fields within the framework of interregional cooperation;

3. Notes with appreciation the actions already taken towards the expansion of the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System database into a multi-dimensional information system, including data on individual experts, institutional capacities, centres of excellence, as well as replicable best practices in developing countries, recognizes the constraints of the effective use of this database; in this regard, calls upon the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to take steps so that least developed countries can effectively utilize the technical cooperation among developing countries Information Referral System;

4. Commends the developing countries that have allocated resources from national for technical cooperation among developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, and have made available their institutional facilities, expertise and centres of excellence for this purpose;

5. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and where focal points have already been established to ensure that the focal points are adequately staffed and also appropriately equipped to enable them to function effectively and efficiently;

6. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, North-South cooperation and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

7. Encourages developed countries that already provide support for technical cooperation among developing countries in the context of triangular arrangements or through bilateral channels to continue to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries, including contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and calls upon other developed countries to do likewise;

8. Reiterates the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the technical resources from other developing countries;

9. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to establish appropriate mechanisms that would facilitate the incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards the mainstreaming of this modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

10. Calls upon organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations to make concerted efforts to assist the developing countries to utilize technical cooperation among developing countries for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute an essential component in the development strategies of most developing countries;

11. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue efforts to mobilize greater donor support in order to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries including the expansion of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund's core capital and support to South Centre in accordance with decision 9/4 adopted by the High-level Committee at its ninth session;

12. Recommends that the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, as well as the High-level Committee foster closer linkages between technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries;

13. Recommends that the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when convening the next meeting of the High-level Committee, take into account the need to make the session more interactive;

14. Welcomes the important focus that will be given to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities for development segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1997, and strongly recommends that the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session constitute part of the background documents for the consideration of this item;

15. Notes with interest that 1998 will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and recommends the convening of a commemorative session of the High-level Committee at the ministerial level during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly to mark the occasion and to mobilize further support for the effective implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

16. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee at its eleventh session a comprehensive and analytical biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the present decision.