



# South-South cooperation for development

Distr.: Limited  
22 May 2012

Original: English

## High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

### Seventeenth session

New York, 22-25 May 2012

## Draft report (part I)

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Joshua **Mugodo** (Kenya)

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## **Chapter I**

### **Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its seventeenth session**

1. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following decisions at its seventeenth session:

*[To be completed]*

## **Chapter II**

### **High-level plenary segment**

#### **A. Opening of the session**

2. At the 1st meeting, on 22 May 2012, the President of the seventeenth session of the Committee, the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, opened the session and made an introductory statement.
3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the President of the General Assembly.
4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the President of the sixteenth session of the Committee.
5. At the same meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made a statement.
6. Also at the 1st meeting, a statement was made by the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

#### **B. Introduction of reports on implementation**

7. At its 1st and \_\_\_ meetings, on 22 and \_\_\_ May 2012, and at its \_\_\_\_ meetings, on \_\_\_ May, the Committee considered items 2, 3 and 4 of its agenda.
8. The Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation introduced the following reports:
  - (a) Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (SSC/17/1);
  - (b) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (SSC/17/2);
  - (c) Note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3).

#### **C. Discussion**

9. With all speakers lauding the value of South-South and triangular cooperation, the tone of the general debate of the Committee was very positive overall. Group spokespersons and representatives of individual States alike noted the importance and the scope of South-South and triangular cooperation. Such cooperation offered “great potential to transform the global development landscape”, said one speaker, sounding a theme taken up by many others. “If you want to be incrementally better, be competitive, but if you want to be exponentially better, be cooperative.” The spokesman for a group of developed countries noted the “fantastic potential” that developing countries had to offer.

10. Developing countries were unanimous in reiterating that South-South cooperation was an expression of their solidarity and self-reliance, an association of equals and a complement to North-South cooperation for development, not a substitute for it. South-South assistance should not be seen as compensating for declining support from the North for the least developed countries. A number of delegations urged developed countries not to renege on promised aid.

11. A number of developed countries observed that while aid commitments should be kept, there was also a need, in the context of a fast-changing international landscape, to move beyond traditional cooperation to incorporate South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives and development experience. There was also a need to be open to exchanging information on lessons learned from different development cooperation models and to build further understanding of the respective advantages, complementarities and synergies.

12. A corollary to the discussion of the special role and status of South-South and triangular cooperation was the objection raised by several developing countries to references, in the draft framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, as this was not an outcome document of a United Nations process. As South-South cooperation required “policy space” for developing countries, they could not be “strait-jacketed” in terms of rigid rules and regulations or policy prescriptions, including in the name of aid effectiveness.

13. Some delegates saw no fundamental conflict between North-South cooperation and South-South and triangular cooperation in terms of common objectives; in the current global situation, a new global development partnership was needed, of which all three modalities could be a part. One group of States said that South-South cooperation should be initiated and driven by the least developed countries so as to focus on their own priorities as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

14. Speakers noted the increasing volume and scope of South-South cooperation in terms of regional integration projects, groundbreaking intraregional initiatives and bilateral, regional and multilateral frameworks. Many speakers noted the important role of South-South cooperation in transferring technology, easing market access, providing development assistance and directing investment flows. The increased connectivity within and among developing countries had opened up new opportunities for South-South cooperation, and several speakers called attention to existing and planned initiatives related to Internet portals for knowledge-sharing.

15. In appeals for the substantial scaling-up and institutionalization of South-South cooperation, it was noted that the global South had effective knowledge-sharing systems, proven development policy options, tested institutional capacity-building solutions and affordable and appropriate technologies in the areas of food security, climate change and HIV/AIDS research. In addition, it was noted that the South was a tremendous source of tested, relevant solutions to development challenges that landlocked developing countries could use.

16. The unprecedented waves of change sweeping the world clearly highlighted the need to scale up South-South cooperation, one delegation stated. The United Nations had an important role in the expansion and mainstreaming of South-South cooperation as a cross-cutting issue at the heart of the development agendas of all its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, both in New York and in the field.

Delegates emphasized the need for long-term vision and global arrangements to optimize the impact of South-South cooperation.

17. While noting the important contribution of the South in maintaining the momentum of global growth amid major economic and financial crises, a number of delegates underlined that even rapidly growing developing countries continued to face serious problems, including persistent poverty, rising inequality and problems related to economic and social exclusion. In fact, the majority of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries that had addressed with a sharp drop in official development assistance through the innovative use of South-South cooperation.

18. A number of speakers noted that negative macroeconomic conditions continued to constrain the development of entire categories of countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries.

19. A major theme of the debate was the key role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional and subregional bodies. Many speakers welcomed the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and several noted that there was considerable room for improvement. In that context, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South cooperation was a particular topic of interest. Several developing countries regretted that the report of the Unit was not on the agenda of the Committee and urged that it be included.

20. Delegations welcomed the preparation of the draft framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation. Speakers noted that the guidelines were intended for United Nations organizations, not countries, which had to adopt a flexible, practical approach to South-South and triangular cooperation. One spokesperson for a group of developed countries saw the guidelines as a practical follow-up to the 2009 Nairobi High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

21. Another particular focus of interest was the role and the capacity of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. Speakers from developing countries were strongly in support of strengthening the Special Unit, expanding its mandate and increasing its resources. One delegate noted that the core resources of the Special Unit had actually declined even as the demands on it had grown in recent years. The spokesperson for a group of developed countries said the Special Unit had successfully created a space where United Nations actors, Member States, the private sector and non-governmental development actors could forge inclusive partnerships for effective development. The positioning, functions and resources of the Special Unit needed to be strengthened so as to ensure that it had the capacity to track, analyse and study the dynamic process of South-South cooperation and to establish and implement policy measures. This was necessary in order to continuously strengthen the monitoring and implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Nairobi outcome document. Speakers noted that intergovernmental consultations on strengthening the Special Unit were necessary but had not commenced.

22. A number of delegations noted that South-South and triangular cooperation included a diverse range of participants: in addition to Governments, the most prominent players were the private sector, civil society and academic institutions. This was seen as a new global development partnership that included all

stakeholders, both traditional and new. In that context, policy and operational coordination were important to ensure the optimal use of resources.

23. The positive role of South-South and triangular cooperation in improving transport and communications infrastructure was a theme stressed by a number of speakers, especially those from landlocked countries. One delegation speaking for a group of developing countries cited a World Bank study on the costs of doing business that showed the disproportionately high costs imposed on the trade of landlocked countries. It called for work towards an “investment preference regime” of tax breaks and guarantees of credit and risk to encourage the corporations from the South to invest in infrastructure and productive capacity-building in landlocked developing countries.

### Chapter III

**Thematic discussion: “Promoting socioeconomic transformation through infrastructure development, employment creation, social cohesion and the transfer of appropriate technology using South-South cooperation”**

24. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its \_\_\_\_ meeting, on \_\_\_\_ May 2012.

*[To be completed]*



## **Chapter IV**

### **Report of the Working Group**

25. At its \_\_\_\_ meeting, on 25 May 2012, the Committee considered item 6 of its agenda.
26. The Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Working Group and Vice-President of the Committee introduced the report of the Working Group.
27. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.

## **Chapter V**

### **Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Committee**

28. At its \_\_\_\_ meeting, on \_\_\_\_ May 2012, the Committee considered items \_\_\_\_ of its agenda.
29. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its eighteenth session (see chap. I, decision 17/\_\_\_\_).
30. By the same decision, the Committee authorized its President to consult with the representatives of Member States on the thematic discussion for the eighteenth session and to communicate the decision taken on the basis of those consultations to Member States in advance of the eighteenth session in order to enable delegates to take appropriate preparatory actions.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Draft report**

31. At its \_\_\_\_ meeting, on 25 May 2012, the Committee considered item \_\_\_\_ of its agenda.
32. The Rapporteur, Joshua Mugodo (Kenya), introduced the draft report of the Committee.
33. The Committee adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

## **Chapter VII**

### **Closure of the session**

34. At the \_\_\_\_ meeting, on 25 May 2012, [*to be completed*].
35. At the same meeting, closing statements were made by [*to be completed*].

## Chapter VIII

### Organizational matters

#### A. Date and place of the session

36. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held its seventeenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 25 May 2012. The Committee held \_\_\_\_ meetings (1st to \_\_\_\_). It also held an organizational meeting on 3 May 2012.

37. The establishment, background, history, chronology and reports of previous sessions of the Committee are contained in the reports of the Committee to the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

38. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

#### B. Attendance

39. The seventeenth session of the Committee was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP. Also attending were [*to be completed*]. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

#### C. Election of officers

40. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

*President:*

John W. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

*Vice-Presidents:*

Le Hoai Trung (Viet Nam)

Alison Helena Chartres (Australia)

Attila Zimonyi (Hungary)

*Rapporteur:*

Joshua Mugodo (Kenya)

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 and corrigendum (A/35/39 and Corr.1); ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39); ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39); ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39); ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39); ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39); ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39); ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/48/39); ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/50/39); ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39); ibid., Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/54/39); ibid., Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/56/39); ibid., Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/58/39); ibid., Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/60/39); ibid., Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/62/39); and ibid., Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/65/39).*

41. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Vice-President Alison Helena Chartres (Australia) serve as Chair of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chair should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

#### **D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

42. The Committee held its organizational meeting in New York on 3 May 2012 to elect the Bureau of the seventeenth session and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

43. The Committee adopted the provisional annotated agenda (SSC/17/L.2) and organization of work (SSC/17/L.3) for its seventeenth session. A general debate was held in the plenary from 22 to \_\_\_\_ May 2012 on items 2, 3 and 4. The Working Group, scheduled to begin its work on 24 May 2012, was assigned agenda items 2, 3 and 4 for substantive discussion and charged with making recommendations to the Committee. The list of documents before the Committee at its seventeenth session is contained in annex II to the present report.

## **Annex I**

### **List of participants**

#### **States Members of the United Nations or States participating in the United Nations Development Programme**

*[To be completed]*

#### **United Nations bodies, funds and programmes**

*[To be completed]*

#### **Specialized agencies**

*[To be completed]*

#### **Intergovernmental organizations**

*[To be completed]*

#### **Non-governmental and other organizations invited to participate as observers**

*[To be completed]*

#### **Individuals invited to participate as keynote speakers and/or panellists**

*[To be completed]*

## **Annex II**

### **List of documents**

Provisional annotated agenda, including list of documents (SSC/17/L.2)

Note by the Administrator on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work (SSC/17/L.3)

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (SSC/17/1)

Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (SSC/17/2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3)

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