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**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

Santiago, 14 April 2016

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 14 April 2016.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries, which had been appointed to serve as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

3. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the following ECLAC member States: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico.

Chair and Vice-Chairs

4. At the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the countries listed below had been elected to serve as the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean:

<u>Chair:</u>	Peru
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Argentina, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

B. AGENDA

5. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
3. South-South cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of agreements.

¹ See annex 1.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

6. The Director General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, welcomed the participants to the meeting.

7. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the delegations, who adopted it without amendment.

Follow-up on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (agenda item 2)

8. The Political Affairs Officer of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission gave a brief summary of the seminar-workshop entitled “Analysis of the status of proposals to measure South-South cooperation”, held in Santiago in December 2015. He said that the seminar had highlighted the existence of political-technical tensions and the need for greater transparency in countries’ activities and for data that were not being used to be taken into consideration. He also referred to the importance of quality over quantity when measuring South-South cooperation and to the changes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implied. With regard to evaluating results, he said that seminar participants had noted that evaluation, measurement and monitoring costs should be incorporated into the design of projects and that processes should be analysed before moving on to results. Lastly, with regard to models, strategies and mechanisms, the seminar had given priority to data collection and had highlighted the work of professionals who exported knowledge as a fundamental part of South-South cooperation.

9. The Regional Adviser of the Statistics Division of ECLAC introduced a proposal for measuring South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean through a system of satellite accounts. Those accounts revolved around the central national accounting framework, described in detail the structure and behaviour of certain areas or specific socioeconomic fields, and allowed new, more appropriate aggregates and indicators to be built and used. He noted that using satellite accounts in the field of cooperation was based on three balance-of-payments items related to South-South cooperation activities: current international cooperation, current transfers and capital transfers. In concluding, he said that the instrument would raise the profile of South-South cooperation and allow the weight of cooperation in national economies to be quantified, its different forms to be identified and simulations to be carried out.

10. The Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC introduced a proposal for measuring South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean through the monitoring and evaluation of South-South cooperation programmes and projects. The proposal was complementary proposal, rather than exclusive, and based on an analysis of processes as well as impacts since it took time for the outcomes of programmes and projects to become apparent. He therefore recommended that follow-up efforts should go beyond monitoring budget implementation, by moving towards creating institutions to measure cooperation and formulating a consensual plan with common criteria and reasonable deadlines. He also said that it was necessary to design a specific model for each project, which would allow for statistically controllable intervening variables to be included, using quasi-experimental models.

11. During the presentation that followed, the Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC referred to the progress made by the Task Force on Quantification of South-South Cooperation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the outcomes of the discussion workshop on the development of a methodology to measure South-South cooperation, held in Bogota in April 2015. The overall objective of the Task Force was to develop a methodology that would define, qualitatively and quantitatively, measurements for South-South cooperation by creating a glossary of relevant statistical terms, contributing to international discussions on measuring South-South cooperation and strengthening collaboration between national statistical offices and national cooperation agencies. After having recounted the activities undertaken by the Task Force, and its results and commitments, he explained that the main challenges in relation to measuring South-South cooperation were coordination with other regional initiatives, collaboration among different actors, and the political and technical complexity of developing a methodology.

12. The Chief of the Financing for Development Unit of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC reported on the progress made in calculating structural gaps. He stressed that, to date, three countries had requested assistance in applying the structural gap approach (Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala) and gave details of the case of Costa Rica, which was the most advanced. He said that it was an effort coordinated by Costa Rican institutions and led by the country, which was responsible for identifying its own gaps, with technical support from ECLAC. Various vertical gaps (inequality and poverty, education, productivity, innovation, infrastructure and tax) and a cross-cutting gap (gender) had been identified during the process.

13. In the discussion that ensued, the representative of Costa Rica spoke on the role of human capital in measuring South-South cooperation and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The representative of El Salvador said that the focus of measuring South-South cooperation should not be purely economic and that criteria such as horizontality, solidarity, reciprocity and the strengthening of public policies should also be considered. The representative of Mexico expressed interest in the strategic approach and continuity of the work described by the previous speakers, as well as the relationship of the Committee on South-South Cooperation with discussions on South-South cooperation in a broader framework.

14. The representative of Peru recalled that much of the information needed to evaluate processes was already available and stressed the need to include grants awarded by countries in South-South cooperation measurements. The representative of Chile said that the choice between measuring processes, impacts and outcomes was essentially political in nature and depended on the type of beneficiary. She also recalled the importance of good-quality, standardized measurements of South-South cooperation, while respecting countries' differences. The representatives of Guatemala and Honduras referred to intangible cooperation among countries and to national discussions on the link between impact assessment indicators and indicators in development plans.

South-South cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 3)

15. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission described the negotiations under way in New York to set up a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development, which was expected to be established at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC (Mexico City, 24-27 May 2016). He indicated that that new forum would be chaired by the country presiding over the ECLAC session at the time and would serve as the regional monitoring mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals and as a bridge for dialogue with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He then explained that the new forum would prevent the

duplication of work and would be built on existing structures, so that United Nations system organizations and subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, including the Committee on South-South Cooperation, could report to the forum on the relationship between their specific areas of action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. The Chair proposed using the Committee on South-South Cooperation, as an intergovernmental forum, to link sustainable development and South-South cooperation. The representatives welcomed the proposal, but agreed that countries would need more time to reflect on the matter. They also concurred that the updates presented at the meeting should be included in an activity report, to be submitted to the Committee on South-South Cooperation at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

La lista provisional contiene los nombres de los participantes que se han comunicado a la Secretaría. Se publicarán adiciones a la lista a medida que se vaya recibiendo información. Se ruega a las delegaciones se sirvan informar de cualquier corrección a María Eugenia Johnson, Oficial de Conferencias (mariaeugenia.johnson@cepal.org), o a Paula Warnken, Asistente de Protocolo de la CEPAL (paula.warnken@cepal.org)

The provisional list contains the names of the participants communicated to the Secretariat. Addenda will be issued as information is received. Delegations are requested to inform of corrections to the list to Ms. María Eugenia Johnson, Conference Officer (mariaeugenia.johnson@cepal.org) or Ms. Paula Warnken, Protocol Assistant of ECLAC (paula.warnken@cepal.org)

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