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

Mexico City, 25 April 2017

CONTENTS

| | | <i>Paragraph</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|-------|---|------------------|-------------|
| A. | ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK | 1-3 | 3 |
| | Place and date of the meeting | 1 | 3 |
| | Attendance..... | 2 | 3 |
| | Chair and Vice-Chairs..... | 3 | 3 |
| B. | AGENDA..... | 4 | 3 |
| C. | SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS..... | 5-42 | 3 |
| Annex | List of participants..... | - | 13 |

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico City on 25 April 2017 in the framework of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries, which had been appointed to serve as Presiding Officers: Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.

Chair and Vice-Chairs

3. At the thirty-sixth 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:²

Chair: Mexico
Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Jamaica.

B. AGENDA

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Discussion on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

5. Noel González Segura, Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Forums and Mechanisms for International Development Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, welcomed the participants and submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the delegations, who adopted it without amendment.

¹ See annex 1.

² Under agreement 1 of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation held in Santo Domingo in January 2017, El Salvador and Honduras have joined the Presiding Officers.

Opening

6. Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Economic Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, initiated the discussion on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. After greeting the authorities and officials responsible for cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the representatives of the different cooperation agencies, he remarked that cooperation had reached a turning point. The current context, characterized by a weakening of multilateralism, the return of protectionism and the ascendancy of extremist political movements, had contributed to the abandonment of the multilateral cooperation agenda. This entailed serious risks for the world economy and reduced the possibilities of fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals.

7. The Chief also noted that the Latin American and Caribbean region faced a complex scenario characterized by slower economic growth and greater uncertainty with regard to its political and economic future. This unfavourable economic situation, coupled with low levels of investment that constrained productivity and limited the structural changes needed to progress towards a new style of development, threatened the social advances achieved by the countries over the past decades, in particular, the reduction of poverty and inequality. This was deeply worrying as poverty still affected 175 million in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. The speaker also noted that member countries were aware of the urgent challenges they faced at the current juncture and of the need to strengthen the region's voice in global forums on sustainable development. Accordingly, they had created the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, aimed at encouraging cooperation among peers through the exchange of experiences, best practices and shared learning, and promoting a comprehensive, coherent and more efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum, which would hold its first meeting from 26 to 28 April 2017 in Mexico City, was a multi-stakeholder follow-up mechanism of the 2030 Agenda whose outcomes would represent a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development that meets every July in New York.

9. ECLAC had identified four key pillars for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region, including: (i) integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and fiscal architecture, (ii) designing and following up on the means of implementation in a difficult economic context, (iii) fighting tax evasion (which represents 6.3% of the region's annual GDP), and (iv) promoting science, technology and innovation. Strengthening the regional architecture to follow up implementation of the 2030 Agenda was also important, as was increasing statistical capabilities in a context of data revolution in order to enable the monitoring of indicators linked to the Sustainable Development Goals using increasingly disaggregated and georeferenced data from both traditional and non-traditional sources.

10. The Chief remarked that today, more than ever, multilateral cooperation and integration needed to be promoted and broadened. There was no single effective formula, or even set of standard formulas, for effective cooperation. ECLAC had maintained that the international cooperation system, which was steered by the rationale of per capita income as the representative indicator of development, had excluded middle-income countries. The international cooperation system needed to find a comprehensive and broad response to the issue of development that included lower- and middle-income countries, as well as small island developing States.

11. He underlined that global and regional realities meant that South-South cooperation was increasingly important, especially considering its new contributions in the form of greater horizontality, an increased sense of appropriation by receivers—with a double dividend for donors and receivers—, the stimulus of technical capabilities on both sides, and an increased sense of shared responsibility. This type of cooperation represented close to US\$ 20 billion annually, equivalent to 15.2% of total official development assistance (ODA), according to United Nations figures. South-South cooperation also posed challenges to the governance of the international system and opened up the debate on different forms of assistance to help define a new consensus and new stakeholders. Triangular cooperation, as part of this new architecture for international cooperation, deserved special attention as it made the most of the comparative advantages each partner could contribute, generating shared benefits, making cooperation projects replicable and contributing to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC then referred to several technical cooperation and South-South cooperation initiatives the Commission had undertaken in Haiti, such as the advisory and support services provided by ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico to the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences (IHSI) in the design of a short-term indicator of economic activity (ICAE). In September 2016, a seminar was held in Haiti to launch the indicator together with its first bulletin, which to date has been issued on four occasions. The complete methodological document for the indicator was published by the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences in March 2017. Also, a meeting of experts under the auspices of ECLAC had been planned for the second half of 2017 in Mexico to introduce the indicator and provide an opportunity for experience-sharing on short-term indicators between the different statistics institutions of the Central American and Caribbean subregion. Another concrete example was the analysis by ECLAC and the Mora Institute of lessons learned from the South-South cooperation efforts of Brazil, Chile and Mexico with Haiti. The book, a compilation of case studies from the three countries that would be available later in 2017, provided an analysis on the challenges of South-South cooperation offered by countries in the region. Other initiatives included the cooperation with El Colegio de México, which had started in 2007 and was supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada in the context of a Latin American project reflecting on new forms of cooperation with Haiti. The initiative had included seminars and workshops on, among other topics, food security, migration and remittances.

13. These examples reinforced the idea that the region needed to develop its own approach to South-South cooperation, tying it in with a broad and multifaceted concept of development capable of improving quality of life and fostering sustainable and inclusive growth processes that would redress the social and productive inequalities typical of Latin America and the Caribbean. South-South cooperation would also be important for facilitating shared learning and the consolidation of regional compacts to improve productivity, promote full employment, safeguard the environment and enable the region to take part in the fourth industrial and technological revolution, among others. It was time to leave behind the classic premise of assistance for development whereby rich countries provided help and prescribed the actions developing countries had to implement in the fight against poverty. Today, the focus had to be on achieving a global pact and lobbying for international agreements in the trade, environmental and social spheres that would respect the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities.

14. Next, Yanerit Morgan, Director-General of Regional Agencies and Mechanisms of the Americas of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, remarked that for Mexico the region's current economic situation, characterized by slower growth and an uncertain international scenario, offered the ideal opportunity to make South-South cooperation a useful experience-sharing tool and a catalyst for regional integration. In such a context, South-South cooperation could contribute significantly to the countries' efforts to transition towards sustainable development. Knowledge transfer and effective experience-sharing also reinforced capability-building at the regional, national and local levels.

15. She also noted that, in the case of Latin America, South-South cooperation had fostered regional integration through the development of infrastructure, the coordination of tourism-related policies and the reduction of economic inequality. Since the inception of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), South-South cooperation had become an important topic, as reflected in the Santiago Declaration, adopted at the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC (Santiago, 27 and 28 January 2013). In that Declaration, the Heads of State and Government highlighted the need to build a South-South cooperation policy “that reflects the identity of the region, contributes to reducing regional asymmetries, promotes sustainable development and seeks articulation with the cooperation instances already existing in the region”. Meanwhile, the South-South cooperation efforts of the Ibero-American countries channelled through the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government focused primarily on results-based management methodologies and other instruments for promoting effective knowledge-sharing, in order to add value throughout the cycle of South-South cooperation projects and strengthen their management.

16. The Director-General of Regional Agencies and Mechanisms of the Americas of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, apart from contributing to the establishment of a solid architecture for review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, had served as an important forum to position South-South cooperation as a key element in the implementation of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It had been proven that South-South cooperation could promote innovative cooperation mechanisms to address the most recent development challenges in areas such as knowledge exchange, economic development, infrastructure, technology, capacity-building, food security, the reduction of poverty and inequality, environmental sustainability and preferential access to specific markets. In recent years, South-South cooperation had also driven integration through multiple actions in the region, which, far from faltering in times of crisis and international uncertainty, had in fact intensified.

17. Noel González Segura, Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Forums and Mechanisms for International Development Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), said that the objective of the meeting was to reflect on the role that South-South and triangular cooperation played in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that the meeting was particularly timely as it was taking place just before the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and that other important events would also take place in the following months, such as the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. South-South cooperation was widely acknowledged as part of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Committee on South-South Cooperation could contribute to the implementation of the Agenda.

18. The speaker said that South-South cooperation had gained in stature worldwide in recent years as a modality for sharing knowledge and successful development solutions. According to the latest available estimates, South-South cooperation had exceeded US\$ 20 billion in 2014 and would undoubtedly continue growing. These figures had to be complemented with data published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which for a second year running had registered record levels. Furthermore, the United Kingdom and Germany had reached—and expressed their willingness to maintain—the contribution equivalent to 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA.

19. Implementing the 2030 Agenda still entailed certain challenges. Donor countries had yet to fulfil their voluntary commitments and, in any case, these resources were clearly insufficient to cover all the requirements for the implementation of the Agenda. It was thus increasingly important to find ways to

make better use of traditional resources of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to promote, support and complement other flows earmarked for development financing, such as those resulting from efforts to strengthen tax collection, improve spending, use multidimensional approaches to plan poverty reduction policies, and execute upgrading projects in agriculture, fishing and industry.

20. It was crucial for countries in the region to reflect on ways in which to maximize this particular sphere of national public policy. The Committee on South-South Cooperation had decided to cover three main topics during the current biennium: to share experiences on implementing the 2030 Agenda, to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation and to share experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics.

21. The speaker drew attention to the report by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which would be used as the basis for deliberations at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development and which proposed that each country should include the 2030 Agenda approach in their international cooperation strategy. Countries needed to reflect on ways to carry forward the 2030 Agenda at the national level through their inward and outward cooperation. An agreement in this regard would be an important contribution to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Lastly, he added that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should work as an open, inclusive and participatory platform engaging stakeholders from civil society, academia, parliaments, foundations and the private sector.

Dialogue on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 2)

22. Jorge Chediek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, speaking via videolink, referred to the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA). He said that the current political climate was positive for South-South cooperation as it was now a consolidated process and that experiences were available to draw on and follow-up mechanisms were in place. He stressed that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

23. The Director remarked that in contrast with the situation in 2009, when the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Nairobi, the region now had consolidated institutions, such as development banks, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Committee for South-South Cooperation of ECLAC. Resources had grown significantly and South-South cooperation had surpassed what it used to be in 1978, or 2009 for that matter; therefore, the challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean in the meeting to follow up on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to be held in 2019, was to put forth a positive agenda that would allow the region to advance towards fulfilment of political commitments that could contribute to South-South cooperation in both directions. Accordingly, the region should engage in the preparatory process for that meeting and adopt resolutions regarding thematic work modalities that could contribute to the consolidation of South-South cooperation at the 2019 meeting.

24. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC presented the Commission's views on the role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in Latin America in fulfilling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He remarked that resource mobilization was a key aspect for the region, as were the changes in the way cooperation resources were organized, managed and allocated. It was necessary to devise new instruments for resource mobilization,

allocation and management, which would necessarily require interaction between countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since countries in the region had been classified as middle-income economies, the reduction in ODA had had a large impact. Between 1961 and 2014 ODA had dropped from 1% to 0.2% of regional GDP.

25. Despite an increase in private flows and their contribution to growth, these funds had not been aligned with the region's development objectives and requirements. Hence, the question of how to align private flows with development was still a relevant one. Foreign direct investment (FDI) was increasingly important, as were remittances, and it was essential to diversify the FDI portfolio and broaden its scope beyond solely extractive and hydrocarbon-related sectors.

26. Before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, cooperation had been concentrated on poverty and strengthening of the State. However, not only did South-South and triangular cooperation combat poverty, they also helped to leave behind the traditional vertical relationship between donors and receivers and direct resources in a more efficient manner. Data from reports on cooperation by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) showed that South-South cooperation was highly concentrated, with 90% of cooperation executed by just four countries, whereas the spectrum of receiving countries was much more diversified. Triangular cooperation, too, was concentrated by provider (Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico) and by donor (certain countries outside the region: Australia, Germany, Japan and the United States), but its allocation had improved, which had enabled capability-building in the economic, productive and social spheres. The challenge for the region consisted in making South-South and North-South cooperation work as complements to each other.

27. Martín Rivero, Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation Area at the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) presented the *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2016*. He noted that SEGIB had also analysed long-term data on South-South cooperation, which were available on the organization's website. The 2016 report showed that the 22 member countries had taken part in more than 1,150 initiatives altogether, executing 552 projects and 333 actions—in all, almost 900 initiatives—of horizontal cooperation, as well as others in the triangular and regional categories. Argentina, Brazil and Mexico had been the main suppliers of horizontal cooperation projects: together with Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Uruguay, they had been responsible for almost 92% of the 552. The remaining 8.2% were attributable to Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In the case of the Dominican Republic, South-South cooperation had grown 148% in recent years, while Paraguay had tripled its participation in South-South cooperation projects and actions. Data disaggregated by sector showed that in 2014 most projects had been geared towards the social and economic spheres. More than 75% of the projects focused on the economic sphere had been aimed at strengthening capabilities related to production sectors, in particular in the agrifood, textile and timber industries. Other projects had targeted the fisheries, tourism, extractive, construction and forestry sectors, although their relative weighting was lower. In the social sphere, 14.3% of projects were focused on strengthening the health sector.

28. In terms of the relationship between South-South cooperation and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Coordinator remarked that the 2030 Agenda represented one of the most important challenges for South-South and triangular cooperation in the Ibero-American region. More integrated and coherent work by the international community was needed to coordinate cooperation projects and programmes in accordance with national sustainable development priorities. Accordingly, innovative strategies must be sought in order to mobilize and creatively use existing resources, boosting their effects and enhancing the impact of cooperation actions. Among other things, greater efforts were needed to give effect to multi-stakeholder participation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. María Josefina Menéndez, Executive Director of Save the Children Mexico, referred to the role of civil society in South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the importance of building new partnerships —based on new approaches and with equality as the driving principle— as a catalyst for successful fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. She drew attention to the experience of Save the Children Mexico with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and a group of Central American governments. She referred to a project aimed at reducing migration through improvements in standards of living by means of partnerships with different stakeholders in El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, as well as other civil society organizations. It was an innovative project with concrete actions in high-risk areas that could be linked to several Sustainable Development Goals.

30. Jaime Miranda Flamenco, Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, gave a presentation highlighting the importance of involving civil society stakeholders in public policy. El Salvador viewed civil society as a development stakeholder in South-South cooperation and the incumbent government had strengthened citizen participation as a key point of El Salvador's development policy. Broad consultations had been held to help design public policies and the country's five-year development plan 2015-2019 had been the result of a participatory process involving religious institutions, the business community, local governments and the academic sector, among others. El Salvador had contributed to the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals through a broad participatory process, holding workshops in which over 4,500 people took part. Lastly, El Salvador was among a group of 15 countries that had undertaken accelerated implementation of the Goals.

31. The Vice-Minister remarked that his country worked with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) on the coordination of the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation, and with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in its capacity as Pro tempore Chair and through the Working Group on International Cooperation of CELAC. Among other issues, El Salvador was interested in establishing guidelines for an international policy on South-South cooperation in the framework of CELAC, as well as in steering the region's contributions to development in Haiti. El Salvador was also keen to narrow knowledge gaps, promote multilateralism, modernize public policies and foster regional integration.

32. Inocencio García, Vice-Minister of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, remarked that for South-South and triangular cooperation to make a contribution to the region, the countries needed to strengthen their institutions. Among other things, this included improving the design and execution of methodologies for measuring, gathering and systemizing statistics. He remarked that the Dominican Republic had aligned approximately 70% of its national development strategy and multi-year national public sector programme with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, but that efforts were still required at the micro level to achieve full alignment with the Agenda.

33. In closing, the Vice-Minister highlighted examples of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, citing the cooperation between Colombia and the Dominican Republic with regard to the sustainability of beaches, as well as instances of triangular cooperation between Dominican Republic, Japan and Haiti on crop raising techniques in mountainous areas, as well as other forms of triangular cooperation involving Haiti that were specifically related to the recovery of the Limón River basin, which touched on gender, ecosystem, agriculture and product commercialization issues along the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Discussion

34. The representative of Brazil said that the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation was timely as it came after the Second Retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey and preceded the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. He noted the large gaps in the region for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as financing, which were compounded by the current political climate. It was necessary to emphasize that South-South cooperation should not substitute ODA. The measurement of South-South cooperation was of the utmost importance for Brazil, but followed a different rationale from that used to measure North-South cooperation. Lastly, triangular cooperation would remain important as long as the principle of bilateral relationship was preserved.

35. Regarding the Brazilian portfolio of projects, he referred to work in several areas that encompassed the three dimensions of sustainable development. Projects covered sustainable agricultural production, food security, public policies, family agriculture, school meals, and technical assistance activities with Africa in the framework of a cotton production programme. In closing, he reported that in late May 2017 Brazil would host an event at the regional level to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and invited member countries to join the celebration.

36. The representative of Cuba agreed with the opinions expressed during the dialogue and noted that his country had a great deal of experience with South-South cooperation and that it differed significantly from North-South cooperation. He also remarked that per capita GDP metrics hid many realities and called upon ECLAC to help countries on the theoretical and methodological aspects, and to lend support for South-South cooperation policies by providing data.

37. The representative of Honduras noted that her country had moved on from being exclusively a recipient of cooperation to fulfilling a dual role under the modality of South-South cooperation. Honduras had updated its South-South cooperation catalogue and requested permission from the Chair to present these experiences at a future meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC. She remarked that her country could share its monitoring and assessment practices, as well as lessons learned.

38. The representative of the Dominican Republic noted that his country had recently reached a triangular cooperation agreement with Spain and El Salvador on an information system for small and medium-sized enterprises, and highlighted the importance of positioning South-South cooperation in the framework of the development cooperation system.

39. The representative of El Salvador agreed that, in the current global and regional context, South-South cooperation initiatives needed to include high-quality methodologies and metrics. He expressed the hope that, with a view to the meeting on the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the region's countries could reach an agreement on a definition for South-South cooperation and how it contributed to development. Furthermore, he noted that in its capacity as Pro tempore Chair of CELAC, El Salvador had requested ECLAC to systemize the available regional discussions in order to reach a multilateral consensus on this subject.

40. The delegations agreed that South-South cooperation acted as a catalyst to strengthen regional integration and that it could play a fundamental role in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. In the context of the new architecture of international cooperation and the 2030 Agenda, South-South cooperation

could make an important contribution to countries' efforts to advance towards sustainable development. The effective exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer reinforced capacity-building at the regional, national and local levels.

41. Several delegations also agreed that South-South cooperation should help to change the middle-income classification criteria determined on the basis of per capita income, as well as to mobilize resources, and, especially, to allocate them more efficiently. This was beginning to happen in the region, as confirmed by the *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2016*, prepared by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), which showed that the region had moved from targeting almost exclusively poverty reduction and State capacity-building towards action in the social sphere and in economics, industry, science and technology. The region now faced the challenge of building a positive agenda amounting to much more than demanding that countries of the North fulfil their obligations and beyond even the 2030 Agenda. This called for participation by the countries and their stakeholders, given that cooperation was crucial to achieve development and build a better world.

Consideration and adoption of agreements

42. At their meeting in Mexico City on 25 April 2017, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation agreed to:

1. *Reiterate* the importance of South-South cooperation as an important means for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need for donor countries to fulfil their commitments in terms of official development assistance;

2. *Acknowledge* the contributions of the various stakeholders taking part in South-South cooperation, especially civil society, and to reiterate the need to continue fostering their participation in South-South and triangular cooperation projects;

3. *Promote* coordination between the different agencies and mechanisms working on South-South cooperation in the region, such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the United Nations Development Programme, among others, with the purpose of avoiding duplication of tasks and promoting synergies based on their comparative advantages and respective mandates;

4. *Also promote* the coordinated participation of the region's South-South cooperation mechanisms in global events in order to share the region's vision and promote a balanced view that includes the contributions of South-South cooperation to development, and to ensure the continuity of cooperation towards the region, including official development assistance;

5. *Encourage* the participation of agencies and mechanisms responsible for South-South cooperation in different forums such as the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development Follow-up and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

6. *Acknowledge* the evolution of the sectoral composition of South-South and triangular cooperation, which has broadened beyond its traditionally important areas of capacity-building and institutional strengthening to other core sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, industry and infrastructure, and in this regard, draw attention to the growing importance of South-South cooperation in the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and solid institutions;

7. *Urge* the region's countries to actively take part in the 40-year review of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA), to take place in the first half of 2019, and to seize the opportunity to promote a positive and balanced view of South-South and triangular cooperation;

8. *Support* the proposal set forth in the report prepared by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development for every country to build the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their international cooperation strategy, and call upon the countries to reflect on ways in which to promote the 2030 Agenda through cooperation.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
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EL SALVADOR

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**B. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas
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**E. Secretaría
Secretariat**

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