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

Santiago, 17 April 2018

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in the framework of the second 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 of the Committee: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.

3. The following member countries of the Commission also attended: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Japan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Chair and Vice-Chairs

4. 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

5. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Information on the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, to be held in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC (Havana, May 2018), and the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019).
3. Report by the Chair on the project to establish a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Report by the Chair on South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC.
5. Other matters.

¹ See annex 2.

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

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

6. At the opening session, statements were made by Noel González Segura, Director-General of Planning and International Cooperation for Development of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), and Ileana Núñez, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba (MINCEX).

7. Next, the representative of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, submitted the provisional agenda, which was adopted without amendment.

Report by the Chair on the project to establish a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

8. The next item was a teleconference with representatives of Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay to discuss the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. The Director-General of Planning and International Cooperation for Development of AMEXCID, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers, presented the cooperation proposal, indicating that it was aimed at strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of governments of the region that they were establishing or intending to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, three areas of work were proposed under the project: national coordination strategies and mechanisms; (ii) generation of statistics and methodologies for calculating SDG indicators; (iii) promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation schemes focused on the 2030 Agenda.

10. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba commended and supported the initiative of Mexico and remarked that during its upcoming chairship of the Committee, Cuba would promote the following lines of work: the exchange of experiences and good practices in the area of poverty eradication, as a contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the coordination of South-South cooperation mechanisms operating in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Working Group on International Cooperation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation); and the preparation of a common regional position in preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019).

11. The representative of El Salvador expressed satisfaction with the proposals of Mexico and Cuba, and commended the link of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals with the work of the Committee on South-South cooperation of ECLAC.

12. The representative of the Dominican Republic welcomed the establishment of the network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. He indicated that it was very important to stress its voluntary nature, as well as to work in depth on its operation. He added that only 12 years remained until 2030 and that the region required greater mobilization of resources to achieve the SDGs.

13. The representative of Uruguay agreed with the proposal submitted by the Chair of the Presiding Officers, which was consistent with the lines of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in her country. She also noted that Uruguay would analyse the possibility of supporting the project through the Uruguay-Mexico Joint Cooperation Fund.

14. The representative of Paraguay expressed support for the proposal and stressed her country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, noting that its National Development Plan was 92% aligned with the SDGs.

15. The representative of Costa Rica congratulated the Chair and the Presiding Officers of the Committee and enquired as to the procedure for the adoption of the proposal between the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers and the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to take place in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, as well as emphasizing that the network project must be voluntary in nature.

16. The representative of Guatemala expressed her agreement with the establishment of the network and said that her country had established national-level coordination between international cooperation issues and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, since both areas were the responsibility of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN).

17. The representative of Panama expressed her support for the proposal and remarked that the project was consistent with the Panama 2030, the country's State-level national strategic plan. She also offered to make the lessons learned from the knowledge hubs methodology available for the project.

18. The representative of Honduras also expressed interest in the project.

Information on the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, to be held in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC (Havana, May 2018), and the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019) (agenda item 2)

19. The Political Affairs Officer of the ECLAC secretariat reported on the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC in Havana, in the afternoon of Wednesday, 9 May 2018, and reviewed the programme.

20. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba provided further particulars regarding the Palacio de Convenciones in Havana, where the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC was to be held. She also reviewed the programme for Monday, 7 May 2018, national day, and drew attention to the panel entitled "Discussion on South-South cooperation: opportunities and lessons learned from the Cuban experiences", organized by the Government of Cuba jointly with the United Nations system.

21. Next, statements were made by the delegations. The representative of Mexico gave an account of the activities envisaged in the framework of the Committee on South-South Cooperation between the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers and the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires, in March 2019.

22. The representative of Brazil complemented the road map by indicating that the Committee's work should take into account the outcomes of the symposium on trends and challenges in South-South cooperation, which had taken place in Brasilia on 8 and 9 March 2018 and had been attended by 20 countries invited from Latin America and other world regions. The symposium had been held in preparation for the

Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires, in March 2019, marking the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The representative shared the main outcomes of the symposium with the meeting.

Report by the Chair on South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC (agenda item 4)

23. Under this agenda item, the Chair briefly reviewed the cooperation activities conducted and gave the floor to the Political Affairs Officer of the ECLAC secretariat, who gave a detailed presentation on the activities undertaken since the thirty-sixth session.

24. The Political Affairs Officer of the Secretariat of the Commission referred to the mandates conferred under resolution 709(XXXVI) of the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC and their implementation. In this regard, he referred to: (i) the design of methodologies to measure South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean through a system of satellite accounts, and for the follow-up and evaluation of South-South cooperation programmes and projects; (ii) the progress made regarding the calculation of structural gaps, a process being carried forward by the Financing for Development Unit of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC; (iii) the action lines of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018; (iv) the reports to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development concerning the Committee's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (v) the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation at their fifth and sixth meetings.

Other matters (agenda item 5)

25. Under this agenda item, the Chair called for active participation in the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC and in the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. The representatives of the countries expressed their wish for the region to arrive at that Conference having adopted a common position.

Consideration and adoption of agreements

26. At their meeting in Santiago on 17 April 2018, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the agreements that figure in annex 1.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their meeting in Santiago on 17 April 2018, 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;

2. *Insist upon* the need for donor countries to fulfil their commitments in terms of official development assistance;

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

4. *Urge* the region's countries to participate actively in the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held on 9 May 2018 in Havana, in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and to take the opportunity to promote a positive and balanced view of South-South and triangular cooperation;

5. *Take note* of the network project for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean presented by the Chair of the Presiding Officers;

6. *Ask* the secretariat to submit the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean to the member countries of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for their consideration, in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Thank* the Government of Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers, for its active Chairship and the progress made during the period 2016–2018.

Annex 2

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
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**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States members of the Commission**

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- Irinia Elizondo, Directora de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

CUBA

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