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PROPOSED ACTION LINES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2018

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat is hereby circulating the present document, prepared by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), to members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as input to the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held in the framework of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.



UNITED NATIONS



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Committee on South-South Cooperation is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), whose mandate derives from General Assembly resolution 58/220 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Subsequently, by virtue of ECLAC resolution 611(XXX), the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries changed its name to the Committee on South-South Cooperation. One of its main objectives is to strengthen international cooperation for development in the region, including South-South, North-South and multilateral cooperation.

The Committee on South-South Cooperation meets every two years in the framework of the ECLAC session to review and establish the Committee's development cooperation activities and to discuss South-South cooperation trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, and may hold inter-sessional meetings as required.

At the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, which will be held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, Mexico, represented by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), will take over the Chair of the Committee from Peru for the period 2016-2018.

Pursuant to resolution 696(PLEN.31), adopted at the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, to be convened under the auspices of ECLAC, will provide the regional and subregional review framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee on South-South Cooperation, as one of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, will inform and supplement the work of the Forum.

In the context of the new international cooperation architecture and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, South-South cooperation can make a significant contribution to countries' progress towards economic and social, in harmony with the environment. The effective exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer strengthen capacity-building at the regional, national and local levels. In that regard, searching for joint solutions to development challenges presents a great area of opportunity given the shared vision and interests of the Latin American and Caribbean countries within the framework of the global agenda.

In the light of the foregoing, Mexico submits the following action lines for the next two years for the consideration of the delegations participating in the Committee on South-South Cooperation:

1. Sharing experiences of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation.
3. Sharing experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics.

The activities to be undertaken to promote the three action lines will be agreed upon by the Committee and will include initiatives such as a knowledge transfer platform, workshops and regional meetings.

1. Sharing experiences of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In the framework of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as recognized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, a strategy must be developed to mobilize other regional sources of financing and cooperation in addition to official development assistance (ODA). To this end, cooperation modalities, such as South-South and triangular cooperation, which enhance and supplement traditional forms of development cooperation, will have to be strengthened.

South-South cooperation can promote innovative cooperation models that address new development challenges, taking into account their comparative advantages with other modalities in areas such as knowledge exchange, economic development, infrastructure, technology, capacity-building, food security, combating poverty and inequality, environmental sustainability and preferential access to specific markets.

Mexico proposes using the Committee on South-South Cooperation as a platform to strengthen dialogue and expound the specific contributions that South-South cooperation makes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. Countries may also find it of interest to share successful models for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation

Taking into consideration countries' commitment to international cooperation for development and their participation in defining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 17 to "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development", attention must be drawn to the role of inclusive partnerships in South-South cooperation that involve other development actors, such as the private sector, civil society, academia, parliamentarians, local government and other international organizations.

Mexico therefore proposes that a series of activities (workshops, working groups and conferences) should be carried out to cultivate strategic development partnerships and strengthen the global South's leadership on priority regional agenda issues. These initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships will put shared commitments into action, promoting coherence among different development cooperation flows, policies and stakeholders in order to increase their impact, avoid duplication and, potentially, create a joint strategy.

3. Sharing experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics

At the thirty-fourth session of ECLAC, support was provided to regional integration initiatives by promoting South-South cooperation among the countries of the region through technical contributions (analysis, publications and information) to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. As part of the strategy to consolidate the region's participation in South-South cooperation, its most advanced policies, programmes, practices and initiatives in terms of South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics must be documented, shared and systematized, in order to draw attention to their value added in the global development cooperation arena.

National experiences, initiatives and best practices regarding South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics will be shared at regional workshops and seminars. Efforts undertaken in this area by other bodies, such as the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) will also be taken into account.

This action line seeks to take steps towards identifying methodological principles for measuring and monitoring South-South cooperation in the region in order to ensure that each country has the tools to increase the impact and relevance of its activities.