



**2020 United Day for South-South Cooperation**  
9:00am-10:30am, Thursday, 10 September 2020

**Intervention on behalf of the  
Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries**

to be delivered by

**H.E. MR. ENRIQUE A. MANALO**  
Permanent Representative

Excellencies,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, composed of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and my own country the Philippines.

Our Group joins the United Nations in celebrating South-South Cooperation, an important milestone that highlights the valuable contributions of the South in the global efforts to achieve sustainable development.

We thank the UN Office for South-South Cooperation for organizing the event and for its valuable work on South-South Cooperation, including its active support in lending assistance to its partners in the Global South in response to the pandemic.

Excellencies,

Our Group reaffirms that South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity amongst peoples and countries of the South. This solidarity contributes to the national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, according to national priorities and plans.

We recall that 42 years ago, in 1978, the United Nations convened the first Conference on Technical Cooperation among developing countries, which led to the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. This was followed through by two high-level conferences in 2009 and 2019 held in Nairobi and in Buenos Aires, respectively.

South-South cooperation has evolved significantly over the past decades, and remains ever more important today as the international community continues to face preexisting as well as new and emerging challenges, including those brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, that require strong commitments and collective efforts in a global strategy towards the achievement of sustainable development.

We recall the 2020 Secretary-General's Report on the QCPR, and welcome the enumeration of steps that the UN is taking to strengthen its work in the area of South-South cooperation, including in the development of a system-wide strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is expected to put into action a coordinated, coherent approach for a system wide South-South cooperation policy and program, at the request and with the ownership and leadership wielded by the countries.

We also welcome, in this regard, the SG's call for the UN Development System to evolve its development cooperation with middle-income countries in all their diversity.

Excellencies,

We underscore the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries reflected through the financial, technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries.

International cooperation remains a powerful force for complementing middle-income countries' efforts to mobilize public resources domestically to achieve sustainable development. Increased active participation of middle-income countries in international cooperation initiatives and in the implementation of the BAPA+40 Outcome Document has a multiplying effect that can benefit all developing countries especially during the current crisis.

Our Group underlines that economic growth, in and of itself, is not equivalent to advancements of sustainable development and does not reflect the realities in most of our countries. Understanding the role of South-South cooperation requires new approaches to the way we measure progress in sustainable development. Beyond the concern that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' income grow, middle-income countries continue to face particular challenges related to aid for trade, job creation, the diversification and transformation of their economies, and access to international markets.

We strongly advocate that at all levels of per capita income, developing countries continue to face serious challenges, including obstacles in relation to poverty eradication, inequality, external debt and environmental vulnerabilities. Even high-income countries face some of these same challenges. In this regard, international support for implementing effective and targeted technical assistance and capacity-building in middle-income countries to support national plans to respond to and recover better from the pandemic and to continue to implement the SDGs is vital.

You can count on our Group's active engagement and cooperation towards our collective desire of leaving no one behind towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

Thank you.

