



United Nations

Report of the High level Committee on South-South Cooperation

**Twenty-first session
(30 May–2 June 2023)**

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Note

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Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-first session

1. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following decisions at its twenty-first session:

Decision 21/1 South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution [33/134](#) of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹

Reaffirming also the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/222](#) of 21 December 2009,²

Reaffirming further the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/291](#) of 15 April 2019,³

Recalling its decision 20/1, as well as General Assembly resolution [77/185](#) of 14 December 2022,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong global commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

² General Assembly resolution [64/222](#), annex.

³ General Assembly resolution [73/291](#), annex.

environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement,⁴ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and recognizing its increased importance, different history and particularities, stressing that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and reiterating that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit,

Reaffirming also the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication, combating inequalities within and among countries, and the achievement of sustainable development, encouraging developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and committing to further strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including scaling up contributions to the United Nations trust fund for South-South cooperation and other relevant financing mechanisms to enable the United Nations development system to advance South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives championed by developing countries, with sufficient resources,

Recalling that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts and climate change and their respective negative impacts are creating additional challenges relating to the eradication of poverty, food security, energy security and the cost of living, and that developing countries are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in implementing decision 20/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with emphasis on measures taken by United Nations entities in expanding the scope and reach of South-South and triangular cooperation through their policies, programmatic work and funding to address the challenges facing the global South, within their respective mandates and comparative advantages,⁶

Taking note also of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,⁷

Taking note further of the measures taken in the implementation of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation, the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Office, and the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Stresses* that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is a key intergovernmental body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South and triangular cooperation;

2. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

3. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, during the twenty-second session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, further information on the specific assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the Office deriving from her designation as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, taking into consideration the requests made by Member States to improve the impact as well as strengthen the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Office under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources;

4. *Stresses* the need for improving the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and acknowledges the steps taken by the Office in this regard;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its role in encouraging joint support to South-South and triangular initiatives and sharing

⁶ SSC/21/2.

⁷ SSC/21/1.

information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation;

6. *Recognizes* the need for support by United Nations entities and agencies to South-South initiatives, including in policy coordination, capacity development, research and analysis, networking, partnership-building and funding, and requests all funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies and strategic frameworks, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates;

7. *Takes note* of the various experiences and locally driven development approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of learning and sharing good practices, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation through platforms such as South-South Galaxy, the Global South-South Development Expo, regional sustainable development forums and other knowledge-sharing platforms supported by the different entities of the United Nations system;

8. *Recognizes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation by continuing to increase their respective mutual accountability and transparency, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, also recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner, and in this regard encourages relevant partners to further enhance development effectiveness of both modalities and to assess their impact, taking into account, as applicable, the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;⁸

9. *Welcomes* the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, which marks a breakthrough in its measurement, as well as the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development co-custodianship in undertaking the work on this framework, including on capacity-building, led by countries from the global South and building on country-led mechanisms, encourages developing countries to report to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the further improvement of the conceptual framework, and acknowledges the importance of exploring possible options for the measurement of triangular cooperation;

10. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage development partners to transfer technologies, on mutually agreed terms, and provide capacity-building support for developing countries to address poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁹

11. *Encourages* United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating development cooperation perspectives, including, in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives, into the preparation and presentation of the voluntary national review reports on sustainable development;

12. *Notes* that, within the context of the broader reforms of the United Nations development system, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation has the potential to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation through galvanizing the expertise of many United Nations organizations to support South-South and triangular cooperation;

⁸ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

13. *Reiterates* that the entities of the United Nations development system should enhance their support to South-South and triangular cooperation, at the request and with the ownership and leadership of developing countries, through a system-wide approach, bearing in mind their respective mandates and comparative advantages;

14. *Encourages* the continuation and advancement of South-South and triangular cooperation on efforts for COVID-19 response and recovery from the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and other multiple crises in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for continued support from Member States and the relevant United Nations development system entities in that regard, in particular in the areas of strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing the need for equitable and non-discriminatory access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for all;

15. *Welcomes* the networks and exchanges between Southern institutions in developing countries, and requests the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in close collaboration with Member States, to further foster dialogue and collaboration with and among such institutions, building upon the work undertaken at the regional, interregional and global levels with a view to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation to address pressing development challenges, including those emerging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to report on the outcome in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

16. *Also welcomes* innovations that enhance and expand South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this regard recognizes the importance of reinforcing partnership-building, including engaging with partners in government, civil society, academia and the private sector, and of resource mobilization, including contributions to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, third-party cost-sharing, parallel financing, in-kind contributions and special fund management arrangements such as those of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund and the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to scale up the contributions, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Welcomes* the support of development partners for triangular cooperation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the global South, and urges developed countries to continue providing financial, scientific and technological assistance to developing countries, to close the digital divides and to better harness science, technology and innovation to accelerate achievement of the Goals by 2030;

19. *Recognizes* that it is important that all international financial institutions and multilateral development banks continue to be adequately resourced, reiterating the importance of international financial institution and multilateral development bank governance reform in order to adapt to changes in the global economy, and supporting this reform as a key for large-scale Sustainable Development Goal-related investments, to better address global challenges and to increase mobilization of the private sector;

20. *Also recognizes* the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in enhancing connectivity and digital transformation within and among developing countries, and in this regard invites the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations system, in line with their respective mandates, to support efforts to develop and implement policies to bridge the digital divides and fast-track digital transformation to improve the delivery of public services in the South;

21. *Urges* Member States and United Nations entities to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation on access to science, technology and innovation by creating synergies, developing expertise and boosting resources in various regions and institutions, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the summit on science, technology and innovation to be held in Havana as an effort to boost cooperation in this field to increase its benefit to all people;

22. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and welcomes the political declaration¹⁰ that recognizes the need to further strengthen cooperation at all levels;

23. *Also welcomes* the outcomes of the ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation held in 2023 during the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in Doha, on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on progress made in implementing the present decision, including the recommendations and proposals made in his report, to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-second session, in 2025;

25. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide an update of the support to interregional initiatives, and progress made by the Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for the promotion and facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation in his report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-second session.

Decision 21/2

Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its twenty-first session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its twenty-second session, to be held in 2025:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution [77/289](#), annex.

outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

3. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of decision 21/1 of the High-level Committee.
4. Consideration of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the twenty- second session of the High-level Committee.
5. Thematic discussion.¹
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.
7. Approval of the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the High-level Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its twenty-second session.

¹ Theme to be decided on the basis of consultations to be undertaken with Member States by the Bureau of the High-level Committee.

Chapter II

High-level plenary segment

A. Opening of the session

2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 May 2023, the President of the twenty-first session of the Committee, the Peter Mohan Maithri Peiris (Sri Lanka), opened the session and made an introductory statement.
3. At the same meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) made a statement.

B. Introduction of reports on implementation

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 30 May, and at its 3rd meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered items 2, 3 and 4 of its agenda.
5. At the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation introduced the following documents:

(a) Report of the Administrator of UNDP on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation ([SSC/21/1](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by United Nations organizations to implement decision 20/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation through support for South-South and triangular cooperation to bolster human solidarity and accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Global South and beyond ([SSC/21/2](#)).

C. Discussion

6. From the start of the deliberations, developing countries reaffirmed their long-standing conviction that South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the global South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Invoking the Nairobi outcome document and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, they stated that South-South cooperation must be led and its agenda set by countries of the global South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.
7. Several delegations reaffirmed that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. Strengthening and expanding South-South cooperation among developing countries should therefore not reduce the commitment of developed countries and their long-standing pledges in terms of the volume and quality of official development assistance (ODA).
8. Turning to the global context in which South-South cooperation had unfolded during the previous two years, delegations indicated that their countries were dealing

with the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the negative effects of climate change, global inflationary pressures and the challenges linked to food, fuel and financial markets, as well as the decrease in available resources to finance development.

9. There was broad consensus that, eight years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, decades of development gains had been undermined or reversed. Many delegations noted the unprecedented challenges afflicting the developing world and observed that those challenges, including the pandemic, climate change and armed conflicts, were not being addressed quickly enough. They thus emphasized the need for stronger international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, to counter the ramifications of those multiple crises. As was the case at the twentieth session of the Committee in 2021, delegations underscored that international cooperation and multilateral global solidarity had never been more necessary to face the current challenges and bring the developing countries back on track to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The projected risk of not meeting the Goals by 2030 was an overwhelming concern among delegations, motivating most of the remedial proposals that they put forward.

10. Many speakers saw the twenty-first session of the Committee as an opportunity not only to assess the progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in foundational documents on South-South cooperation but also to highlight the importance of such cooperation in the recovery from the pandemic and in addressing multiple global crises. One delegation was of the view that the high priorities outlined in the 1995 new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, including trade and investment, debt management, environment and poverty alleviation, should remain at the top of the agenda for the countries of the global South. Equally important was the need to address financing for the development needs of the global South, establishing digital public goods and fostering development partnerships that are outcome-oriented and financially sustainable.

11. Developing-country delegations further acknowledged that, while the pandemic, climate change and conflicts had hindered South-South cooperation and hit their economies hard, the crises had also inspired robust collaboration among them in order to support the recovery from the pandemic and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Developed countries as a group reiterated their commitment to supporting South-South cooperation, considering it a positive driver for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a complement to North-South and triangular cooperation that should be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in order for development actors from the global North and South to work together harmoniously and leverage one another's strengths. While underscoring the usefulness of South-South cooperation in accelerating the adoption and implementation of good practices, especially at the regional level, and in scaling up what works in specific contexts, the group expressed the view that South-South cooperation could achieve great progress towards eradicating poverty, reaching the Goals and contributing to a faster and better recovery from the pandemic. Thus, it was very important that South-South cooperation remain fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as global commitments, such as the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The group further reiterated its long-standing emphasis on the significance of triangular cooperation as a development model that aligns with South-South cooperation to promote collaboration among developed countries, developing countries and international organizations. The group, in its commitment to South-South and

triangular cooperation, recognized (a) the critical role of capacity-building and knowledge transfer in its partnerships and (b) the value of multi-stakeholder engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation, including civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and international institutions, to realize the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition to highlighting the contributions of the Ibero-American community of nations, one delegation announced a meeting on triangular cooperation to be held in Lisbon in October 2023.

13. A group of least developed countries also stressed the importance of triangular cooperation in the provision of support, such as funding, capacity-building and technology transfer, towards their COVID-19 recovery, while also addressing climate change and food security. It further underlined its need to enjoy access to science, technology and innovation and welcomed the convening of the Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation to be held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2023 as an effort to enhance cooperation in that field. The group called for (a) accelerated support from the countries of the global South in obtaining duty-free quota-free market access for all least developed country products, (b) the creation of regional, subregional and interregional trade agreements that would provide additional market access for exports from least developed countries, (c) greater participation in innovative funding mechanisms, such as blended finance, and support for the adoption of an investment promotion regime for least developed countries as agreed in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, (d) access to a portion of the sovereign funds of developing countries available for investment abroad and (e) support for the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. The group noted that dialogues and policies to better coordinate the management and regulation of migration were essential to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Equally necessary were peer-to-peer dialogues among leaders from the global South and policies on effective governance to transform the countries of the global South into safer, more prosperous places to live and work. The group emphasized that the Doha Programme of Action calls for countries of the global South to further strengthen their support for least developed countries, especially in the areas of technical assistance, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment, transit transport cooperation, and sharing of good practices in productive capacity-building.

14. A delegation representing landlocked developing countries called for assistance similar to that offered to least developed countries to deal with challenges, such as lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation from world markets, and high transit costs that continued to impose serious constraints, which were reflected in rising debt levels and reduced capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda or the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. To address challenges of transport connectivity, limited structural transformation and overreliance on natural resource commodities, least developed countries called upon development partners from the global South and the global North to extend their cooperation for technology transfer and productive capacity development with a view to enabling landlocked developing countries to capture a higher share of value addition locally rather than exporting unprocessed goods.

15. Delegations that were net energy importers considered rising and volatile energy prices as proof that a shift to renewables was of paramount importance to the achievement of their long-term development goals and to developing resilience to external shocks.

16. Several delegations proposed new practical solutions to pursue through South-South and triangular cooperation, in agreement with the recommendations of the Administrator of UNDP to the Committee on the need to (a) scale up successful South-

South cooperation initiatives to accelerate the recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and (b) invest more in health care, education for all, digital transformation, sustainable technologies, humanitarian assistance, governance, monetary and financial systems, the boosting of productive capacities and carbon neutrality.

17. Similarly, some delegations argued that, more than at any other time, countries currently needed effective international cooperation and genuine global solidarity, which is at the heart of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of South-South cooperation. Accordingly, those delegations agreed with the Secretary-General's call for the urgent rethinking of how to scale up South-South and triangular cooperation to enhance the capacities of developing countries for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, many speakers emphasized the role of digital technologies in advancing knowledge-sharing and stressed the importance of promoting access to, and transfer of, technology, including green technologies, on mutually agreed terms, in developing countries. They thus called for expanding centres of excellence and initiatives to support developing countries in the acquisition of capacities for research and development.

18. To overcome funding constraints, speakers called for (a) regional and multilateral South-led financial institutions to scale up innovative financing for sustainable development as a complement to ODA, using a range of instruments, such as grants, concessional financing, debt relief and loan expansion, and (b) the establishment of a forum for finance and development and for foreign ministers of developing countries to discuss, explore and decide on critical issues and strengthen collaboration. Moreover, one delegation said that it had established the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the Global Development Promotion Centre and had increased investment in the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund. Another delegation noted that it had partnered with UNDP and contributed \$10 billion towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, a delegation said that, focusing on least developed countries and small island developing States, it had extended over 300 concessional lines of credit worth over \$31 billion and that projects totalling over \$4 billion had been implemented.

19. To help to overcome the multidimensional vulnerabilities due mainly to middle-income traps, one delegation emphasized the need for improving measures towards the graduation of developing countries to middle-income status, noting that such graduation should not be a punishment or an obstacle to continued international cooperation and assistance.

20. The significance of South-South multilateralism in responding to global crises was strongly emphasized by delegations. One group noted that in Africa, South-South cooperation was a pivotal vector of international cooperation for enhancing the path towards resilient recovery and sustainable development. In its view, cooperation among the countries of the global South had the potential to yield fruitful results in vital areas, such as food insecurity and malnutrition, climate action, digital cooperation, trade, and disease control and prevention. Examples given in that regard included the health response to the pandemic led by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, South-South cooperation frameworks for sharing knowledge and forging partnerships, and policy dialogues to adopt harmonized regional standards for energy efficiency.

21. A common concern among delegations was ongoing conflicts that disrupted supply chains and worsened food and energy insecurity, among other crises.

22. Delegations individually and collectively underscored the significance of South-South cooperation in responding to crises at the regional level. One group noted that, without underrating North-South partnerships, South-South and triangular

cooperation could and must be the focus of its national, regional and international policies to achieve the Goals by the end of the current decade, through channels that allow countries of the global South to share policy measures in containing the spread of COVID-19 and in mitigating its social and economic fallout.

23. To demonstrate current progress in South-South cooperation, many delegations highlighted initiatives in various sectors, including offering capacity development courses to trainers in countries of the global South; dispatching experts to developing countries; providing scholarships and fellowships to students and academics; supporting the building of transport, energy and communications infrastructure; and strengthening institutional capacities to address challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change.

24. A significant trend in South-South cooperation that many delegations reported was cross-border and interregional programmes covering numerous areas, including capacity development, peacebuilding, risk management, resilience, conflict analysis and policy dialogues. One delegation stated that, by working together, countries of the South could create complementarities or synergies of their know-how, good practices and resources for mutual benefit and to address common challenges.

25. The measurement of South-South cooperation received much attention during the discussion focusing on the framework that had been previously discussed by the Statistical Commission in 2022. On the basis of their successful experiences, several delegations urged more countries to pilot such measuring, because doing so would demonstrate the contributions of the global South to sustainable development at a time when assistance from traditional sources was declining. Some delegations, however, argued that any initiatives to measure the impact of South-South cooperation should be voluntary and should not be used to reconsider the financial obligations of developed countries with regard to the provision of ODA.

26. Several delegations welcomed the new Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and lauded the work of the Office, including its collaboration with various United Nations entities, the Development Coordination Office and the regional commissions. Delegations looked forward to the successful implementation of the strategic framework of the Office for 2022–2025 while calling for increased financial contributions to the several funds that the Office manages. One group of countries welcomed the preparation by the Office of a handbook on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into the work of United Nations country teams and that of the United Nations development system at the regional level. The group also appreciated the collaboration between the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives into voluntary national review reports on sustainable development.

27. Representatives of several United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and other entities participated in the general debate. They highlighted policies designed and programmes implemented in support of the South-South initiatives of Member States, such as facilitating the transfer of technology, capacity development, building resilience to risks and hazards, mobilizing resources, and promoting social justice, decent work and inclusive economic growth. Many United Nations organizations also reported support for Member States' emergency response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegations also heard about the less well known aspects of the work of one United Nations organization in helping developing countries to use nuclear science and technology for development purposes.

Chapter III

Thematic discussion: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through South-South and triangular cooperation”

28. The Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 4th meeting, on 31 May.

29. The President of the Committee made opening remarks and gave the floor to the President of the General Assembly and the Director of the Office to make their welcome remarks. The President then invited the moderator, Ben Dotsei Malor of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, to facilitate the discussion.

30. The thematic discussion focused on how countries and their partners could individually and collectively accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through South-South and triangular cooperation with the support of the United Nations system. Against that backdrop, two keynote speakers and five panellists from Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe animated the discussion. All seven experts addressed a specific aspect of the theme in their presentations.

Recovery of the global South from the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and opportunities in the second half of the decade of action and delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals – an overview of the challenges and opportunities for recovery, as well as requisites for resilient and inclusive recovery, focusing on gender aspects

31. The first keynote speaker set a positive tone for the discussion, stating that, given the current global situation, discourse to build bridges of understanding and hope was most timely. South-South cooperation remained as relevant as ever because the post-Second-World-War political freedoms in the global South had not translated into uniform economic progress. The speaker noted that development across the global South had been uneven, with some countries racing ahead and others lagging, while their problems were exacerbated by new challenges, such as climate change, rapid technological innovation and population growth. The presenter called upon countries of the global South to partner among themselves because, given that they shared many similar problems, those countries were well placed to share experiences and thus develop common solutions grounded in their traditional knowledge plus innovation. Examples of innovations that could be shared across the South included (a) the CoronaCheck app, a self-assessment tool for COVID-19 developed by Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, to record information on symptoms and provide a preliminary assessment; (b) low-cost, earthquake-proof, flood-resistant, zero-carbon housing designed in Pakistan; and (c) a portable electrocardiogram machine for use in rural communities. Given numerous other important innovations across the global South that could be shared, the speaker concluded that South-South cooperation in the twenty-first century was even more pertinent and pressing; however, such cooperation required better governance and key partnerships with civil society and the private sector within the South to galvanize knowledge, solutions and finance while ensuring inclusivity. Talented people in the global South, especially women and girls, should not be marginalized or deprived of access to quality health care, education and skills that would empower them to live a life of human dignity.

32. The second keynote speaker appealed to the Committee to reconsider approaches to South-South cooperation and the recovery from the COVID-19

pandemic while paying keen attention to many old and new challenges relating to multilateralism, war and military spending, health, the economy, debt, development finance, climate change and food, among many others. The speaker argued against the following: (a) the recent undermining of multilateralism and the United Nations, which increased the threat of war and nuclear annihilation; (b) opposition by some rich countries to a temporary intellectual property waiver that developing countries had requested during the pandemic; (c) the neglect of climate change and its consequences, which continued to accelerate; (d) the failure to fulfil promises of climate finance; (e) little money available for climate change mitigation and adaptation, while countries in the tropics faced grave problems, with hardly any money for victims of losses and damage; (f) the economic stagnation of much of the world since the global financial crisis of 2008–2009 and the deteriorating situation in many parts of the world seen in rising commodity prices; (g) quantitative easing that made it much easier to borrow, causing tremendous debt problems; (h) increased public spending for much of the world due to the pandemic and the consequent public debt worsened by interest rate hikes; (i) increased public borrowing from commercial banks rather than official sources for governments; (j) inflation stemming from supply-side disruptions due to COVID-19, war and sanctions; (k) claims that poverty had been declining before the COVID-19 pandemic whereas the data on hunger from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) suggested otherwise; (l) rising food prices and the neglect of dietary or food-related diseases; and (m) increasing threats of war and escalating military spending at the expense of human welfare and spending on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Regarding solutions to those issues, the speaker called for the United Nations to play a bigger role in debt restructuring, for more renewable energy funded by the global North, and for developing countries to be non-aligned pacifists working to avoid war and promoting South-South cooperation, especially in the economic and social spheres, to ensure affordable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asia-Pacific: concerted policy measures and actions that Asia-Pacific Member States have taken to ensure that their region achieves green recovery and achieves the zero-carbon goals by mid-century

33. The presenter referred to Thailand to illustrate some of the policy measures and actions that the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region had taken towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda plus the achievement of green recovery and the zero-carbon goals by mid-century. In the Asia-Pacific region, half of the population was living in countries at various levels of socioeconomic development, accounting for nearly half of global greenhouse gas emissions. Thailand thus viewed concerted regional climate action as the key success factor for green recovery. The presenter noted that Thailand, as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, was committed to forging closer partnerships with ASEAN member States and development partners in promoting the so-called Complementarities Initiative that focused on “5 plus 1” priority areas, namely poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience, as well as capacity-building. Thailand had incorporated climate mitigation and adaptation into its national development policies and had assisted other developing country partners on climate action. The thirteenth national economic and social development plan of Thailand (2023–2027) emphasized environmental protection and long-term solutions to the effects of climate change. The country incorporated the 2030 Agenda into its 20-year national strategy (2017-2036) and established the National Committee for Sustainable Development to drive the implementation. It also embraced a bio-circular-green economy model to

complement the sufficiency economy philosophy as its long-term strategy to achieve more balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Africa: readiness and resilience to shocks – impactful good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation relating to the production of COVID-19 vaccines and other medications in Africa as the region equips itself to address present and future shocks

34. The presenter made a case for Africa to have equitable access to vaccines and essential medicines through effective partnerships and collaborative action on the continent. The foremost argument was that the population of Africa today represented 17 per cent of the world population and that, at current growth rates, it was estimated that by 2030, 25 per cent of all people – one in four people on the planet – would be African. Such statistics justified routine childhood vaccination and immunization to preserve health and protect a productive life with a meaningful life expectancy for such a rapidly growing population. The speaker noted that, currently, the disability-adjusted life years (an indicator of the sum of years lost owing to premature death) for Africa was 34 per cent higher than the global average. One reason for that anomaly was that Africa used 30 per cent of total global vaccine production by volume, but in late 2021 and 2022, the continent was able to produce only 1 per cent of its essential immunization needs. Also, there were at least 20 infectious diseases affecting the people of Africa for which there were no vaccines available or in development. Turning to solutions, the presenter highlighted several measures that Africans were taking to reduce their vulnerability. They included:

(a) The vaccine manufacturing strategy that the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention were implementing, including the creation of an ecosystem to support a sustainable pharmaceutical sector. The partnership involved South-South and global partnerships with key entities, such as United Nations agencies, and many other public-private partnerships;

(b) The World Health Organization mRNA hub programme, launched in June 2021 and spearheaded by scientists and bioprocessing engineers in South Africa, supported by leading scientists from around the world;

(c) A visionary alliance for future pandemic responses and the supply of essential vaccines, focusing on the burden of diseases in the global South. That network, which included public, private and public-private institutions in many countries of the global South, was building an innovative model of South-South cooperation of great future relevance.

35. The presenter concluded by saying that partners in that network respected intellectual property rights, but when those rights were prioritized over the right to life, the world needed to pause and think.

Arab States: examples of how, in the Arab States region, South-South financial cooperation has been brought to bear to enable developing countries, including least developed countries, to recover from the pandemic and build forward better

36. The presenter highlighted the policies and actions of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as examples of how, in the Arab States region, South-South financial cooperation could enable developing countries, including least developed countries, to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build forward better. IsDB stood by its member countries after the outbreak of the disease in several ways. First, through a \$4.3 billion strategic preparedness and response programme and its three tracks (respond, restore and restart), it supported health-care systems to respond to the current pandemic and future crises. Second, it assisted the most vulnerable among its

member countries by providing resources to the most-affected sectors, enabling them to withstand the negative impacts of the pandemic. Third, it provided support for vaccine development, manufacturing, procurement and delivery to beneficiaries to ensure that their populations were protected and ready to build forward better after COVID-19. In all of those actions, IsDB had played a catalytic role and had bolstered collaborative solidarity among its member countries through its South-South cooperation mechanism known as “reverse linkage”, which it used to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources among its member countries.

37. The presenter noted that the Arab States region was rich in terms of the availability of many financial institutions and funds critical to supporting the socioeconomic development of many least developed countries. A prime example was the Arab Coordination Group, a strategic alliance that assisted developing countries in reaching their economic and social development objectives. The Group comprised 10 Arab development finance institutions: the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Gulf Programme for Development, the Arab Monetary Fund, the IsDB Group, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, the Qatar Fund for Development and the Saudi Fund for Development. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group had come up with a \$10 billion initiative using financing tools, such as grants, soft loans, technical support, financing lines, trade finance, investment insurance and capacity-building for the public and private sectors. The package included the provision of medical supplies and protective equipment, as well as financial assistance to other strategic sectors, including agriculture, food security, energy, education, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Recently, the Group had responded swiftly to the food security crisis with another package, worth \$10 billion, as an immediate and long-term response to food shortages across the globe. During the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Egypt in 2022, the Group, led by IsDB, announced a \$24 billion financing package that would support climate action activities in its member countries over the course of eight years.

Latin America and the Caribbean: measures that the Latin American and Caribbean Member States have taken to strengthen the institutional mechanisms to manage South-South cooperation in the region and to measure the quality and impact of their South-South programmes

38. The presenter highlighted the experience of Mexico and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation to illustrate some of the measures that Member States of the region had taken to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for managing South-South cooperation and to measure the quality and effectiveness of their South-South cooperation programmes. On the role of institutions, the presenter noted that the Agency was mandated to coordinate the international cooperation of Mexico to promote sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and inequality. In 2022, it had implemented 198 South-South cooperation projects and 11 triangular cooperation projects bilaterally and regionally in areas of common interest, such as the search for agricultural and food solutions, local development, health, maritime transport, disaster risk management and the environment. Triangular cooperation served as a tool to strengthen the integration of multi-stakeholder alliances into development efforts. Mexico had cultivated an institutionalized culture of evaluating international cooperation for development and had made progress in disseminating the effects, results and impact of the projects in which it had invested through the application of a toolbox for the evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation for their programmes in Central America and the Caribbean. On notable

lessons from the pandemic, the presenter stated that Mexico was a regional leader in the life sciences industry and that, during the pandemic, the strategic alliance that had been forged with India had resulted in unprecedented scientific and technological cooperation on health issues, leading to the signing of an agreement between pharmaceutical entities of both countries to carry out Indian technology transfer in research, development, production and distribution of oncological drugs and vaccines in Mexico.

39. Regarding the measurement of South-South cooperation, the consensus view that had emerged from the discussions in 2022 among partners, including Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Cuba, within the framework of indicator 17.3 of the Goals, was that the measuring of South-South cooperation was an invaluable opportunity to highlight the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, Mexico had quantified the amount invested in its offer of international cooperation for development – \$192.25 million – after it had quantified the amount of the technical cooperation of its grants to partner countries, plus its cooperation through the multilateral system, investment in social programmes for Central America, humanitarian aid, scholarships for foreigners in Mexico, and peacekeeping operations in which Mexico had participated. That quantification presented the country with a unique opportunity to show the level of its contributions and to account for the efforts that it had made to achieve sustainable, just and equitable development. The presenter thus urged others to conduct the same measurements.

Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus: digitalization to accelerate recovery from the pandemic and cooperation for public service excellence

40. The presenter, focusing on digitalization in public service delivery, stated that the reality of the current interconnected, interdependent world, with its many complex challenges, required Governments to respond promptly and effectively to the expectations of their citizens. Such a response called for the consideration of good practices and innovations in other countries. Given that interconnectedness and social networks raised citizens' awareness of how various issues were addressed in other countries, Governments were challenged to ensure that their citizens benefited from innovations in the wider world. In that context, cooperation played a critical role at the national and international levels to avoid duplication, and the role of South-South and triangular cooperation had become more prominent alongside the need for Governments to foster openness and partnership in public administration. That shift had increased the significance of multilateral platforms, such as the Astana civil service hub. The hub exemplified a South-South and triangular cooperation platform that combined traditional and innovative forms of cooperation. Its success in forging alliances was due to (a) its flexible, demand-driven agenda with minimal red tape and a harmonious integration of theory and practice; (b) its timely recognition of emerging trends; (c) its accurate expectations in capacity-building and research; and (d) its consideration of the priorities set by clients with respect to their specific government reforms.

41. Collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had enabled the hub to launch three alliances of practitioners from nine countries plus several international organizations focused on public service delivery in e-government and government transformation. The digital platform of the hub supported Governments to learn from one another by gathering and disseminating their ready-to-use practices and innovative solutions in public service delivery to cope with the challenges posed by the pandemic. The shared innovative practices had evoked great interest and were accessible on the hub website. The hub had worked closely with the Republic of Korea and UNDP on the training of civil servants

responsible for digitalization in various countries. Participating countries could draw lessons from the good practices and innovative solutions of the Republic of Korea on the use of artificial intelligence and blockchain technology. Those digital applications should be integrated into South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in addition to strategies to foster partnerships and social cohesion to eliminate digital divides.

General discussion

42. In the discussion that followed, three respondents agreed with much of what the two keynote speakers and five panellists had stated, but also added some insights of their own. The first respondent called for greater solidarity to address inequalities, poverty, hunger and other challenges because of the decline of countries' performance on the human development index in 2021 and 2022 after 30 years of continuous increases. The world thus needed increased financing for sustainable development to achieve development goals through solidarity to ensure well-being for everyone. As knowledge-intensive sectors had remained strong throughout the pandemic, it was necessary to eliminate the widening of the digital divide to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. There was also a need to leverage innovations and the youth of the global South, as well as technology and other homegrown solutions, as a critical part of the solutions essential to a new era of international development cooperation to accelerate recovery from the pandemic and meet the Goals. It was also necessary to draw on the best talent and experience to make the world truly sustainable, just and inclusive.

43. The second respondent observed that, besides facilitating, catalysing and accelerating nationally designed South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, the United Nations system had served as a partnership builder and advocate for South-South and triangular cooperation and as a knowledge broker providing solutions and guidance to country and regional teams. The newly invigorated resident coordinator system was gearing up to support Member States by integrating dimensions of South-South cooperation into policy and guidance for country teams and resident coordinators so that they in turn could add those dimensions to the programming and analysis documents at the country level, including the common country analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

44. With respect to concerns about rising levels of public debt voiced by panellists and delegations, the third respondent noted that the landscape of lenders had become more diverse in recent years to include emerging economies; therefore, South-South cooperation had assumed a critical role in debt strategy. In that context, multilateral organizations had a very important role in encouraging trust and collaboration among members and in helping to minimize fragmentation, since those that lost the most from fragmentation were developing countries that had gained so much from globalization.

45. Most delegations that spoke at the end of the thematic discussion also agreed with many of the points made by the keynote speakers, panellists and respondents on issues, such as the affirmation of multilateralism and the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation, digitalization, and the disproportionately adverse effects of the pandemic and other crises on developing countries. The concluding speakers highlighted their South-South initiatives and called for strengthening cooperation mechanisms, promoting public goods, ensuring gender parity, sharing good practices, and bolstering funding mechanisms based on solidarity. Specific proposals included applying South-South cooperation to foster debt-for-climate swaps, which could free up financial resources so that Governments could improve national resilience without abandoning other development priorities. Regarding innovative development practices, one delegation lauded its bottom-up

economic transformation agenda, which subsidized production rather than consumption through the provision of farm inputs and online non-secured loans for small and medium-sized enterprises via its hustler fund. Another delegation called for greater collaboration on trade, science, technology and development finance within and across regions. Another delegation emphasized trilateral cooperation in the management of partnerships to avoid working in silos and informed the Committee that, in some countries, the measuring of South-South cooperation was a legal requirement.

Chapter IV

Report of the Working Group

46. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 5th meeting, on 2 June 2023.
47. Zéphyrin Maniratanga (Burundi), who served as the Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Working Group in lieu of Joselyne Kwishaka, a Vice-President of the Committee, introduced the report of the Working Group.
48. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.
49. Following the adoption of the report of the Working Group, Dmitry S. Chumakov (Russian Federation), requested the floor and stated that his delegation was obligated to distance itself from the contents of paragraphs 14 and 15 regarding events in Ukraine in the preamble of decision 21/1 of the Committee, in which it took note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the UNDP Administrator.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Committee

50. The Committee considered agenda item 7 at its 5th meeting, on 2 June 2023.

51. The Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-second session (see chap. I, decision 21/2) and by the same decision, authorized its President to consult with the representatives of Member States on the thematic discussion for the twenty-second session and to communicate the decision taken based on those consultations to Member States in advance of the twenty-second session in order to enable delegates to take appropriate preparatory actions.

Chapter VI

Other matters

52. The Committee did not consider any issues under agenda item 8 at its 5th meeting, on 2 June.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-first session

53. The Committee considered agenda item 9 at its 5th meeting, on 2 June.
54. The Rapporteur, Kereeta Whyte, (Barbados), introduced the draft report of the Committee.
55. The Committee adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII

Closure of the session

56. At the 55th meeting, on 2 June, the Associate Administrator of UNDP, made a closing statement.

57. At the same meeting, closing statements were also made by the President of the Committee and by the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

Chapter IX

Organizational matters

A. Date and place of the session

58. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held its twenty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 30 May to 2 June 2023. The Committee held five meetings. It also held an organizational meeting on 1 May 2023.

59. The establishment, background, history, chronology and reports on the work of the previous sessions of the Committee are contained in the reports of the Committee to the General Assembly.¹

60. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution [35/202](#), the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

61. The twenty-first session of the Committee was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations or States participating in UNDP. Also attending were representatives of United Nations bodies and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and individuals invited to participate as speakers. The list of those attending the session is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

62. The Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

President:

Peter Mohan Maithri Peiris (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Presidents:

Dmitry S. Chumakov (Russian Federation)

Diego Antonino Cimino (Italy)

Joselyne Kwishaka (Burundi)

Rapporteur:

Kereeta Whyte (Barbados)

63. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that the Permanent Representative of Burundi, Mr. Maniratanga (Burundi), serve as Chair of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chair should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

64. The Committee held its organizational meeting in New York on 1 May 2023 to elect the Bureau of the twenty-first session and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

¹ [A/35/39](#), [A/35/39/Corr.1](#), [A/36/39](#), [A/38/39](#), [A/40/39](#), [A/42/39](#), [A/44/39](#), [A/46/39](#), [A/48/39](#), [A/50/39](#), [A/52/39](#), [A/54/39](#), [A/56/39](#), [A/58/39](#), [A/60/39](#), [A/62/39](#), [A/65/39](#), [A/67/39](#), [A/69/39](#), [A/71/39](#) and [A/76/39](#).

65. The Committee adopted the provisional annotated agenda ([SSC/21/L.2/Rev.1](#)) and organization of work ([SSC/21/L.3/Rev.1](#)) for its twenty-first session. A general debate on items 2–4 was held in plenary session on 30 and 31 May 2023. A thematic discussion, agenda item 6, was held on the afternoon of 31 May. The Working Group, scheduled to begin its work on 1 June, was assigned agenda items 2–5 and 7 for substantive discussion and charged with making recommendations to the Committee. The list of documents before the Committee at its twenty-first session is contained in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

List of participants at the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

States Members of the United Nations or States participating in the United Nations Development Programme

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

European Union
Partners in Population and Development

Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly but not maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters

Islamic Development Bank

United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, and related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Population Fund
World Food Programme
World Intellectual Property Organization
World Trade Organization

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Labour Organization
International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunication Union
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Secretariat and other units

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
Development Coordination Office
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Non-Member States having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters

Holy See
State of Palestine

Individuals invited to participate as keynote speakers and/or panellists or respondents

Farukh Amil, Chairman, Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan, Ministry of Commerce
Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Visiting Fellow, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, and Adjunct Professor, International Islamic University, Malaysia
Ureerat Chareontoh, Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency
Petro Terblanche, Chief Executive Officer, Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines
Mr. Amer Bukvic, Director-General of Global Practices and Partnership, Islamic Development Bank
Rodrigo Hernández Arauz, Director, South-South Cooperation and Pacific Alliance, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation
Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Astana Civil Service Hub, Kazakhstan
Anu Peltola, Director, Statistical Unit, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Robert Powell, Special Representative to the United Nations, International Monetary Fund
Rosemary Kalapurakal, Deputy Director, Development Coordination Office, United Nations

Annex II

List of documents before the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twenty-first session

Provisional annotated agenda and list of documents ([SSC/21/L.2/Rev.1](#))

Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work ([SSC/21/L.3/Rev.1](#))

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation ([SSC/21/1](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by United Nations organizations to implement decision 20/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation through support for South-South and triangular cooperation to bolster human solidarity and accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Global South and beyond ([SSC/21/2](#))

