

## 752(PLEN.36) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming also* General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

*Recalling* that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, represents an opportunity for the countries of the region to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions, as well as eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind,

*Recalling also* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review is primarily based on national official data sources,

*Recognizing* that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth, reiterating the importance of global partnerships,

*Bearing in mind* that 2019 marked the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and that the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March, 2019,

*Bearing in mind also* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>2</sup> which recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

*Stressing* the need to reinvigorate the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, aiming at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978 (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1), chap. I.*

<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.235/3.

*Acknowledging* the importance of strengthening bonds with the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in order to leverage our contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions,

*Considering* the key role played in recent years by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Committee on South-South Cooperation as one of its subsidiary bodies, in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region and in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, in accordance with its respective mandate,

*Recognizing* the supportive function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences,

*Bearing in mind* the ongoing United Nations development system reform, by ongoing activities such as enhancing connectivity, harnessing the human and other resources of relevant knowledge networks, partnerships, technical and research capacity to enhance subregional, regional and interregional South-South and triangular cooperation and by continuing their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions and by cooperating, as appropriate, with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams to continue to support the capacity of Member States, upon their request and leadership, in areas in which South-South and triangular cooperation could have the highest development impact,

*Recalling* resolution 749(XXXVIII), adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, which requested the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to convene, with the support of the secretariat, an extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, outside the framework of the session of the Commission, as soon as possible and no later than the second half of 2021, in order to examine ways to enhance its functioning, including the need for institutional changes, with a view to providing recommendations to the Commission on these deliberations,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>3</sup> held in virtual format on 19 and 20 August 2021;

2. *Also takes note* of the document “From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat”,<sup>4</sup>

3. *Endorses* the annex contained in the document “From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat”, which is an integral part of the present resolution;

4. *Approves* the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Decides* that the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall prioritize the implementation of the mandates conferred on United Nations regional commissions in the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which was endorsed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in resolution 749(XXXVIII) adopted at its thirty-eighth session, held in October 2020, and shall carry out its activities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolution 75/234 on South-South cooperation;

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<sup>3</sup> LC/RECSS.2021/4.

<sup>4</sup> LC/RECSS.2021/3/Rev.1.

6. *Agrees* that the regular sessions of the conference shall be held every two years at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, in alternating years to the sessions of the Commission, using installed capacity and within existing resources;

7. *Decides* that the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in 2023, on a date to be determined.

**ANNEX****I. FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN****1. Nature**

The Committee on South-South Cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be renamed the “Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean” and shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will support member States in South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, in line with the roles of United Nations regional commissions as set forth in paragraphs 21, 26 and 27 (i) of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and in accordance with their respective mandates.

**2. Purpose**

Its objectives shall be:

- (a) To strengthen national South-South cooperation mechanisms and possible linkages with North-South and multilateral cooperation;
- (b) To further South-South and triangular cooperation among regional and extraregional stakeholders, including donor countries and international organizations, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of cooperation;
- (c) To examine the experiences of South-South and triangular cooperation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to make progress in evaluating them, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, with the support of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;
- (d) To expand and deepen information-sharing on experiences of South-South cooperation conducted by member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean between Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world, to foster exchanges of knowledge on issues of mutual interest;
- (e) To promote dialogue on South-South and triangular cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world; and
- (f) To bring a Latin American and Caribbean perspective to the debates and proposals led by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

**3. Membership**

The members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be members of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**4. Meetings of the Conference**

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall hold its regular meetings at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago (Chile), every two years in alternating years to the sessions of Commission. The Conference may accept an invitation from the government of a member country to host the regular meeting in that country.

## **5. Presiding Officers**

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the general guidelines established in section II of this annex. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

## **6. Secretariat**

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Regional Conference the existing facilities and resources necessary to carry out its work.

# **II. FUNCTIONING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

## **1. Nature**

The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 below.

## **2. Membership**

The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and four or more members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

## **3. Election of Presiding Officers and duration of mandates**

At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

The newly elected Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

The members of the Presiding Officers may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected as a member of the Presiding Officers. Any country which has served on the Presiding Officers for three successive terms may be elected again after two years have elapsed since the end of its last term of office.

**4. Duties**

The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

- (a) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (c) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings; and
- (d) To decide on requests concerning agenda items proposed by ECLAC member States for the consideration of the Conference.

**5. Meetings**

The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular sessions of the Conference. At the meeting of the Presiding Officers preceding the next session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, they shall adopt a draft programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted for the consideration of member States at its regular meeting.

The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.