

**SECOND HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION  
(Buenos Aires, 20-22 March 2019)**

**Panel Discussion Guidelines**

**Mandate:**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/318 the Conference will include three interactive panel discussions.

- Panel 1 will be held in CR D, in parallel with the plenary meeting in the morning of 21 March.
- Panel 2 will also be held in CR D, in parallel with Panel 3 in the afternoon of 21 March
- Panel 3 will be held in the Plenary Hall in the afternoon of 21 March, in parallel with Panel 2
  
- Participating States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the highest possible level.

**Panel discussion themes:**

The themes of the panel discussions were decided by the General Assembly in its decision 72/554.

- Panel 1 will focus on “Comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation and sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories”.
- Panel 2 will focus on “Challenges and the strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation”.
- Panel 3 will focus on “Scaling up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.”

The Secretariat has prepared concept papers outlining the substantive issues that may be addressed by the participants and suggesting questions for discussion, which are available on the conference website.

**Role of Co-Chairs:**

- Each Panel will be co-chaired by two Chairs to be appointed by the President of the Conference.
- The Secretary-General of the Conference will identify up to five panellists for each Panel
- The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders.

**Structure:**

- The Co-Chairs will preside over the Panel discussions, together.
- They may decide that one Co-Chair opens the panel discussion and presides over the first half of the proceedings, with the second Co-Chair presiding over the second half.

**Participation:**

- Each Panel will be open to participation by the representatives of all participating States, and by:
- up to 8 representatives of intergovernmental organizations
- up to 8 representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, and
- up to 6 representatives of accredited civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

**Discussion scenario:**

- The three-hour session will begin with the introduction of the Panellists, who will be seated on the podium as the Panel is declared open.
- Next the Co-Chairs will make brief opening remarks, one after the other and for up to 5 minutes each.
- The Co-Chair will then give the floor to each of the panellists to make their presentations (up to 8 minutes each) to address key issues of the theme for the panel discussions.

(Panellists will be advised that due to time constraints PowerPoint presentations will be discouraged.)

Also due to time constraints, the introductory segment (statements by Co-Chairs and panellists) should not last more than one hour.

**Requests from the floor:**

A high number of requests for the floor are anticipated at each Panel and time management will be important.

- Opening the floor for the interactive discussion, the Co-Chairs should underline that, in order to provide for maximum participation, interventions should not exceed *three minutes*.
- The Co-Chairs may also stress that prepared statements are strongly discouraged.
- If speakers exceed the time limit, they could be politely reminded of the three-minute limit.

**No advance list of speakers will be prepared:**

- The Secretary will assist the Co-Chairs in managing requests for the floor.
- At the discretion of the Co-Chair, priority in the order of speakers will be given to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders. (intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholders).
- The Co-Chairs should aim to achieve a balance among speakers from participating States and stakeholders. At the end of the debate, if time permits, the Co-Chairs will give the floor back to the panellists to make some brief closing remarks (no more than 2 minutes each).

**Conclusion and outcome:**

- Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the Co-Chair may make very brief closing remarks and declare the round table adjourned.
- The Secretariat will prepare summaries of each Panel discussion (up to 800 words each).
- The summaries of each panel discussion will be presented orally by one of the Co-Chairs (to be agreed mutually between the Co-Chairs) at the closing plenary meeting and will be included in the report of the Conference.

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