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

Interactive Panel Discussion Guidelines

Mandate

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/318 and decision 72/544, the Conference will include three interactive panel discussions. The first will be held in parallel with the plenary meeting in the morning of 21 March. Interactive panel discussions 2 and 3 will be held in parallel in the afternoon of 21 March. Participating States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the interactive panel discussions at the highest possible level. Interactive panel discussion 1 and 2 will be held in Conference Room D. Interactive panel discussion 3 will be held in the plenary hall.

Each interactive panel discussion 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 of the panels. The interactive panel discussions will be followed by debate among States and other relevant stakeholders.

Each interactive panel discussion will be open to participation by representatives of all Member States, 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.

Themes

The themes of the interactive panel discussions were decided by the General Assembly in its decision 72/544. Panel discussion 1 will focus on “Comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation and sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories”. Panel discussion 2 will focus on “Challenges and the strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation”. Panel discussion 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, which are available on the conference website at www.unsouthsouth.org/bapa40.

Structure

The Co-Chairs will preside over the interactive panel discussion. They may decide that one Co-Chair takes the lead for the first half of the panel, with the second Co-Chair presiding over the second half.

The three-hour session will begin with brief opening statements by the two Co-Chairs (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 of the panel discussions. (Panellists will be advised that due to time constraints PowerPoint presentations are discouraged.)

The interactive discussion will be conducted by the Co-Chairs. A high number of requests for the floor are anticipated at each interactive discussion and time management will be important. Opening the floor for an interactive debate, the Co-Chairs would 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 the 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 brief closing remarks (no more than 2 minutes each).

Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the Co-Chair may make brief closing remarks and declare the interactive panel discussion adjourned.

**Outcome**

The Secretariat will prepare summaries of the interactive panel discussions. The summaries will be presented orally by one of the Co-Chairs (to be agreed mutually between the Co-Chairs) of each panel discussion at the closing plenary meeting and will be included in the report of the Conference.