



# South-South cooperation for development

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## High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

### Twentieth session

New York, 1–4 June 2021

## Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

### Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. The twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation will follow the format and working methods introduced at the eleventh session of the Committee, held in May 1999, which include the following:

(a) A half-day organizational meeting to be held not later than three weeks before the biennial session of the Committee. At the meeting, the Bureau of the Committee will be elected and the provisional agenda and programme of work adopted;

(b) The duration of the general debate on items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the provisional agenda ([SSC/20/L.2](#)) will be limited to three plenary meetings and will conclude at the end of the morning meeting of the second day of the session. The arrangements for the general debate will be as follows:

(i) A list of speakers for the general debate on Tuesday, 1 June 2021, and the morning of Wednesday, 2 June 2021, will be opened from Monday, 17 May 2021, to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 1 June 2021, so that Member States, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations can register their speakers. The names, titles and email addresses of the speakers should be sent by email to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation at [southsouth@unssc.org](mailto:southsouth@unssc.org);

(ii) In accordance with the working methods of the Committee, statements in the general debate will be limited to eight minutes for representatives of regional groups, five minutes for representatives of Member States and three minutes for other participants;

(iii) To save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations are invited to submit their statements for inclusion in the eStatements section of the Journal of the United Nations by emailing them to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).

(c) To make the debate interactive, the President may request the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to respond, from time to time,



as appropriate, to observations and suggestions made by delegations during the debate and will subsequently invite comments from the floor, either on the Director's response or on the issues raised in the statements of the delegations;

(d) An additional feature of the Committee's deliberations is a thematic discussion, including presentations by experts on the selected theme. This format is designed to stimulate interactive discussions among delegations and between delegations and the Committee secretariat. The theme for the twentieth session of the Committee is "Accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the effective implementation of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation while responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and similar global crises". The recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion will be incorporated into the report of the Committee and, as appropriate, reflected in its decisions;

(e) The biennial session will be scheduled for a duration of four days. The general debate will be conducted in plenary meetings on 1 and 2 June 2021;

(f) In accordance with the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet on 3 June 2021 to deliberate on the draft decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

### **Draft programme of work**

2. The annex to the present note contains a draft programme of work for the session. All meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon and from 3 to 5 p.m.<sup>1</sup> In view of the limited time and services at the disposal of the Committee, it is important that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the stipulation in rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1) that "the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating in the Meeting are present".

3. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would also serve as both Chair and Rapporteur. Based on previous practice, and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, it is urged that the regional groups start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts of the Bureau well in advance of the organizational meeting, with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the Committee to be elected by acclamation at that meeting and dispensing with the requirement of secret balloting.

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<sup>1</sup> The duration of each meeting is reduced to two hours from the traditional three hours for in-person meetings owing to the cognitive load on interpreters when working remotely.

## Annex

### Draft programme of work

#### A. Plenary meetings

<i>Tuesday, 1 June 2021</i>		<i>Wednesday, 2 June 2021</i>		<i>Thursday, 3 June 2021</i>		<i>Friday, 4 June 2021</i>	
<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
Opening of the session (item 1)	Items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 <i>(continued)</i>	Items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 <i>(concluded)</i>	Thematic discussion on accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the effective implementation of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation while responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and similar global crises (item 6)				Adoption of the report of the Working Group (item 8)
General debate and 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 and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (item 2)							Approval of the provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Committee (item 9)
Actions arising from previous sessions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, including with regard to events to mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (item 3)							Other matters (item 10)
Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in implementing decision 19/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with emphasis on enhancing the role and impact of the United Nations			Item 6 <i>(concluded)</i>				Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twentieth session (item 11)

<i>Tuesday, 1 June 2021</i>		<i>Wednesday, 2 June 2021</i>		<i>Thursday, 3 June 2021</i>		<i>Friday, 4 June 2021</i>	
<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>

Office for South-South Cooperation, and in implementing the priorities set out in the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, including the recommendations and proposals made in his report (SSC/19/2). The Committee will also consider the response to General Assembly resolutions 72/237 and 73/291, para. 36, as described in the report of the Secretary-General (SSC/20/2). (item 4)

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

(a) Implementation of the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation

(b) Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation, including efforts to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (item 5)

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<i>Tuesday, 1 June 2021</i>		<i>Wednesday, 2 June 2021</i>		<i>Thursday, 3 June 2021</i>		<i>Friday, 4 June 2021</i>	
<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>

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Follow-up by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on the recommendations of the Office of Audit and Investigations audit of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (item 7)

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## B. Working Group

<i>Thursday, 3 June 2021</i>		<i>Friday, 4 June 2021</i>	
<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
Negotiation of draft decisions	Negotiation of draft decisions	Conclusion of negotiations Approval of all draft decisions	Plenary meeting