



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

HIGH-LEVEL FORUM OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

2021

**Trends, Opportunities and Challenges on the
Path to Sustainable Development: Strengthening
South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation
in the COVID-19 Context**



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Designed by Juan Pablo Ramos Valadez

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FOREWORD	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	10
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	12
WELCOMING REMARKS	14
SESSION 1.	
Taking Stock of Achievements for South-South and Triangular Cooperation Since BAPA+40: How Far Are We in Achieving the Goals Set Out in the Outcome Document?	20
Case 1. <i>Argentina</i>	21
Case 2. <i>International Labour Organization (ILO)</i>	21
Case 3. <i>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</i>	22
Question and answer session	24
SESSION 2.	
Trends, Opportunities and Challenges Posed by the COVID-19 Crisis for South-South and Triangular Cooperation	26
Case 1. <i>United Nations Development programme (UNDP)</i>	27
Case 2. <i>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</i>	28
Case 3. <i>Partners in Population and Development (PPD)</i>	29
Case 4. <i>Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)</i>	30
Question and answer session	30

BREAKOUT SESSION FOR THE AMERICAS	32
Case 1. <i>Colombia</i>	33
Case 2. <i>Mexico</i>	34
Case 3. <i>Argentina</i>	35
Case 4. <i>Brazil</i>	35
Question and answer session	36
BREAKOUT SESSION FOR ASIA	38
Case 1. <i>India</i>	39
Case 2. <i>Indonesia</i>	40
Case 3. <i>China</i>	40
Case 4. <i>Singapore</i>	41
Case 5. <i>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</i>	41
Question and answer session	42
BREAKOUT SESSION FOR AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE	46
Case 1. <i>Egypt</i>	47
Case 2. <i>Morocco</i>	47
Case 3. <i>Palestine</i>	48
Case 4. <i>Turkey</i>	48
Case 5. <i>Azerbaijan</i>	49
Case 6. <i>Norway</i>	49
Case 7. <i>African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)</i>	50
Question and answer session	50

BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS AND CONCLUDING SESSION

**The Future of Development Cooperation: Insights into What to
Expect in the Medium to Long Term and How South-South and
Triangular Cooperation Should Be Positioned in the New Decade
of Action**

54

CLOSING REMARKS

58

ANNEX I. AGENDA

60

ANNEX II. RECOMMENDATIONS

64

ANNEX III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

68



MR. NAOKI ANDO

Director General
Operations Strategy Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency

The twelfth High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) was the first DG Forum to take place in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the immense challenges posed by the pandemic, such as travel restrictions, growing inequality, job losses, increasing poverty, digital divide and uneven access to vaccines, the countries of the Global South as well as of the North are joining forces to address the crisis and to get us back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2019, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation reached a major milestone when 145 Member states endorsed the BAPA+40 outcome document because this meant that the Member States officially recognized the importance of those modalities of cooperation as crucial tools to achieve the SDGs.

I was delighted to be able to virtually meet our colleagues at the Forum and to exchange experiences and ideas to deliver more effective development cooperation in this difficult situation. The experience renewed my strong conviction that we can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of South-South and triangular cooperation even under difficult circumstances. As one of the co-hosts of the DG Forum since

2008, the Japan International Cooperation Agency is proud that this Forum has developed into a platform that contributes to reflecting the voices of South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners and to facilitating mutual learning to implement the BAPA+40 recommendations.

JICA has long supported South-South and triangular cooperation. Based on our past experiences including the Covid-19 pandemic, there are three lessons that we have learned on delivering effective South-South and triangular cooperation. First, cooperation should be demand-driven and aligned with national development priorities, particularly the SDGs. To make sure that all assistance is aligned, it is crucial to strengthen national reporting and coordination mechanisms. Moreover, to ensure that assistance programmes contribute to achieving national priorities, monitoring and evaluation as well as transparency and accountability mechanisms are important tools to continuously improve the effectiveness of assistance. Second, effective knowledge-sharing and mutual learning are essential because there are no ready-made solutions in the current world where development challenges are multifaceted and complex. The DG Forum seeks to leverage the impact of South-South cooperation by serving as a facilitator to play a catalytic role in mutual learning and in helping to identify and enable the most effective utilization of the comparative advantages of all stakeholders. Finally, digital tools are key to enable us to continue our South-South and triangular cooperation. Even under the current travel restrictions, we have managed to continue our projects and trainings across countries.

I wish to sincerely thank our co-hosts, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank, for their contributions to making the first virtual DG Forum a success. I also want to thank the 160 practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation who actively participated in the event. I hope that future Forums will continue to serve as milestones for these evolving modalities and help us to implement the recommendations of the BAPA+40 outcome document and to achieve the SDGs.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all forms of development cooperation—be it North-South or South-South cooperation—have been strained owing to a plethora of challenges underpinned by shifting national priorities and stretched financial resources. Despite these challenges, there have also been remarkable examples of cooperation witnessed among the countries of the South rooted in solidarity.

The twelfth High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) was held virtually in March 2021 under the long shadow of the ongoing pandemic, and as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), it has given us great pleasure to work with our partners, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to co-organize that important event.

As one of the steps towards the implementation of the BAPA+40 recommendations, the Bank had prioritized strengthening national institutional arrangements for South-South cooperation to help IsDB member countries as well as those of the South to put in place structured means and mechanisms to engage in South-South cooperation more concretely and efficiently. With that in mind, we developed and launched—together with the South Centre and UNOSSC—a framework that provides an organized way to look at national institutional arrangements and identify gaps for further enhancement. We also formulated a capacity development programme to operationalize that framework through grant-based interventions.

The ongoing pandemic has added renewed emphasis to various challenges of South-South cooperation that had already been aptly highlighted in the BAPA+40 outcome document. Among them is the issue of financing for development cooperation, which is of the utmost importance to scale up South-South cooperation in all its forms. We believe that South-South cooperation still does not benefit completely from the amount of funding available for sustainable development and is not fully mainstreamed to solve development challenges. Our belief in the potential of South-South cooperation goes beyond its current state whereby we envision a future with increased and innovative financing means for South-South cooperation.

The second issue is the scale and commitment of Northern partners in triangular cooperation. The pandemic has shown that it is high time to break down the silos between South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and ensure a comprehensive engagement of Northern partners in triangular cooperation, both in financial and technical terms, while preserving the core principles of South-South cooperation. We live in an immensely interconnected world where economic categorizations, while useful, should not become a hindrance to promoting solidarity-based cooperation on all fronts and across all regions and peoples.

The twelfth DG Forum provided a platform to discuss these issues at length with experts and development professionals from many countries and agencies sharing their perspectives on where we lag in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as well as where we are succeeding. The report before you captures important points which, we hope, will spark new ideas to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and generate much-needed discussions to move our collective development agenda forward.

As the Islamic Development Bank, we will continue to stay engaged in these important platforms of coordination and exchange of ideas to enhance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation globally and ensure that these mechanisms reach their full potential in contributing to a better world for us and future generations.



MR. AMER BUKVIC

Acting Chief Product and
Partnerships Officer
Islamic Development Bank



MR. ADEL ABDELLATIF

DIRECTOR A.I.
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) is pleased to present the report of the twelfth High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum). This report documents the discussions, knowledge and experiences shared during the Forum co-organized with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Forum provided a space for South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners and policymakers to come together to renew and reaffirm commitments to South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are grateful to all the representatives who participated in the DG Forum in these challenging times. We especially appreciate panellists Ms. Aliya Agazadeh (Azerbaijan), Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa (PPD), Ms. Maria Elena Alcaraz (Mexico), Ms. Anita Amorim (ILO), Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur (IFAD), Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi (RIS), Mr. Marcio Correa (Brazil), Mr. Helge Espe (Norec), Mr. Teuku Faizasyah (Indonesia), Ms. Ana Fernandes (OECD), Ms. Sara Hamouda (APRM), Ms. Elenore Kang (Singapore), H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khalil (Egypt), H.E. Mr. Tian Lin (China), H.E. Mr. Mohamed Methqal (Morocco), H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra (India), Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab

(UNDP), Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls (Colombia), Mr. Rahman Nurdun (Turkey), Mr. Juan Roccatagliata (Argentina), Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra (ESCAP) and H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi (PICA) for sharing South-South and triangular cooperation experiences; Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado (UNCTAD), Mr. Carlos Correa (South Centre), Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken (IsDB), Ms. Nozomi Iwama (JICA) and Mr. Enrique Oviedo (ECLAC), for skillful moderation; and Mr. Naoki Ando (JICA) and Mr. Riad Ragueb (IsDB) for insightful remarks.

UNOSSC also expresses its appreciation to IsDB and JICA for their co-organization of the DG Forum. Special thanks are extended to Mr. Tarik Iziraren (UNOSSC), who led the preparation and coordination of the Forum and served as overall moderator; Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken and Mr. Riad Ragueb (IsDB), Ms. Sayaka Imaoka, Ms. Nozomi Iwama and Ms. Sachiyo Yasunaga (JICA), and Ms. Yoko Shimura (UNOSSC) for their valuable contribution to the coordination of the Forum; and Ms. Barbara Brewka, Ms. Serena Yeonkyeong Park (UNOSSC), and Ms. Ana Belén Perianes, who contributed to the preparation of this report. Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude to all UNOSSC staff who contributed to the organization of the successful High-level Forum.

ABC	Brazilian Cooperation Agency
AMCI	Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation
AMEXCID	Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation
APC Colombia	Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
BAPA+40	Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CIDCA	China International Development Cooperation Agency
COVAX AMC	COVAX Advance Market Commitment
CSO	Civil society organization
DG Forum	High-level Directors General Forum for Development Cooperation
EAPD	Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (United Nations)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations)
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (United Nations)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
GSSD Expo	Global South-South Development Expo

HLPF	High-level political forum on sustainable development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFI	International financial institution
ILO	International Labour Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
Norec	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PICA	Palestinian International Cooperation Agency
PPD	Partners in Population and Development
RIS	Research and Information System for Developing Countries
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
TIKA	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

The High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) is a platform for national development cooperation agencies and institutions implementing South-South and triangular cooperation. Other stakeholders and practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation are also invited to the Forum.

The twelfth annual DG Forum, held online from 17 to 19 March 2021, brought together the heads of development cooperation agencies and institutions as well as other partners. It was the first DG Forum to take place in the context of the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The DG Forum provided specific recommendations on how to move forward the South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation agenda for sustainable development through actionable and results-oriented solutions, particularly in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to strengthen the institutionalization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation for effective implementation of the recommendations in the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

With that purpose in mind, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) co-organized the DG Forum on the overall theme of “trends, opportunities and challenges on the path to sustainable development: strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the COVID-19 context”. Over 160 participants attended the DG Forum.

The Forum provided an opportunity for the development cooperation practitioners to take stock of how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had performed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on the outcomes of the 2019 DG Forum, during which extensive discussions had been held on the importance of stronger institutional arrangements – or national ecosystems – for South-South and triangular cooperation, the event also provided an opportunity to assess progress towards implementing the BAPA+40 outcome document recommendations and exchange views on ways and approaches to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation taking into consideration the new trends and opportunities as well as evolving challenges that development cooperation might face in the medium to long term.

The DG Forum was opened by remarks from the co-organizers: IsDB, JICA and UNOSSC.

To set the stage, session 1 provided an opportunity to take stock of what had been achieved to date in reaching the goals set out in the BAPA+40 outcome document, with a particular focus on arrangements and roles of development cooperation agencies. The discussion focused on key questions such as the following: “What important strides had been made so far”? “What critical areas still needed attention”? “What success factors could be prioritized in order to accelerate progress?” and “What role would development cooperation agencies play in that progress?”.

An overview of the trends and challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and possible ways forward for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the pandemic were discussed in session 2. International and regional development institutions and think tanks presented how development cooperation, particularly South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, played a key role in addressing the challenges and taking advantage of opportunities in order to advance the development goals of beneficiary countries. The contributions in that session provided ample evidence that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation would be key elements of international cooperation and sustainable development.

Following the plenary sessions, three regional breakout sessions focusing on the Americas, Asia and finally Africa, the Middle East and Europe were conducted to carry out more in-depth discussions on the theme of the DG Forum from regional and global perspectives. The breakout session for the Americas focused on the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. At the breakout session for Asia, the discussion centred on the cases of China, India, Indonesia, Singapore and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The round-table debate in the breakout session for Africa, the Middle East and Europe concentrated on the cases of Azerbaijan, Egypt, Morocco, the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation, the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Those discussions provided the means to document the specific views of all participants in different regions on how the challenges posed by COVID-19 could be overcome and how actions and interventions through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could be effectively implemented to achieve the goals set forth in the BAPA+40 outcome document.

Day 1,
17 March 2021

Welcoming Remarks

SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Adel Abdellatif**, Director a.i., United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- **Mr. Naoki Ando**, Director General, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- **Mr. Riad Ragueb**, Acting Director, Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i., UNOSSC

The twelfth High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) would provide a key opportunity to discuss common challenges, take stock of achievements made, forge new partnerships, share experiences and scale up lessons learned and solutions. Several current challenges would be considered in a holistic manner: first, the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic had exhausted the resources of all countries in the world, particularly in the Global South. The question to be answered was how countries could work better together to address the pandemic in an equitable manner; second, the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had been lagging in many countries of the South over the last year because of the pandemic outbreak, the issue was how the principles of South-South cooperation, such as national ownership, equality, mutual respect and benefit, national sovereignty, non-conditionality and solidarity, could guide development cooperation work to build back better; third, the implementation of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) recommendations. It was necessary to identify what kinds of adjustments would be required to reinvigorate them. Most of the recommendations of BAPA+40 could not be put into practice owing to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; and fourth, the big challenge of the future of development cooperation itself. That referred to what to expect over the medium and long term and how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation should be positioned in the decade of action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With respect to the new developments that had taken place in the United Nations system in terms of South-South and triangular cooperation, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) had been mandated to lead and coordinate the development of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. The strategy, approved in 2020 by the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General, provides policy orientation for the United Nations entities to galvanize a coordinated and coherent approach by the United Nations system to its policy and programmatic work on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. UNOSSC had worked on the preparation of the strategy and on the action plan for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy at all levels.

UNOSSC was committed to working on strengthening knowledge-sharing. Accordingly, the South-South Galaxy platform enables users to access knowledge, solutions, research, initiatives and partners. The audience was encouraged to use the platform to share knowledge, make connections and take part in exchanges of ideas, views and solutions. UNOSSC also supported the work of the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation, which engages with over 250 think tanks of the Global South involved in research on a variety of topics that may be useful for South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners. The next Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) was expected to take place in the fourth quarter of 2021 in Bangkok and to be hosted by the Government of Thailand and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The GSSD Expo would be a key opportunity for participants to engage strategically with all development actors, including the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and other organizations, to scale up development initiatives.

Finally, UNOSSC platforms were available for practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to promote South-South and triangular cooperation activities. Moreover, UNOSSC was pleased to continue facilitating the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document recommendations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Naoki Ando, Director General, Operations Strategy Department, JICA

Ever since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) in 1978, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had continued to develop and increase in importance over the years. As a result, the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) demonstrated that South-South and triangular cooperation had become indispensable modalities to achieve SDGs.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic differs from country to country, depending on governmental capacities, people's behaviours, natural conditions, and social and economic structures. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation offer a significant opportunity to overcome those challenges because they enable countries with similar issues to learn from one another.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had for many years committed to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. During the last two decades, it had conducted third-country training programmes and trained approximately 40,000 participants. In addition, it had facilitated and supported 1,600 third-country experts to implement South-South cooperation, making excellent development contributions to recipient countries. Complementing traditional North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation can provide a wider range of access to resources, expertise and capabilities. When countries that face similar development challenges collaborate by sharing strategies, policy priorities and best practices, that cooperation can be much more effective than traditional North-South development assistance.

Indonesia's Maternal and Child Health Handbook is a very important example of Japan's support to the Government of Indonesia and a key case study of South-South and triangular cooperation. The Handbook, now used by mothers of newborn babies in 50 countries and regions, had been modified to adapt to different cultures and social contexts in each country. The idea for the project on utilizing the Handbook in Indonesia had originally been the idea of an Indonesian medical doctor who had received training in Japan. Since then, the Handbook had been disseminated in many other countries thanks to South-South cooperation mechanisms.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE), with the participation of more than 20 African countries, had contributed to tackling the pandemic. One of the medical research institutes participating in the programme and located in Ghana had conducted 80 per cent of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests in the country during the first three months of the pandemic. Moreover, in January and February 2021, as part of the programme, JICA had assisted Ghana to host an online training course on counter-measures against infectious diseases for nine countries in Western Africa.

JICA is committed to developing the capacity of its partner-country national institutions to implement effective South-South and triangular cooperation. In March 2021, JICA, in collaboration with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and UNOSSC, had organized an online programme with participation from 16 countries. In addition, in 2021, JICA would launch the JICA Virtual Academy Network (VAN) for alumni of JICA training programmes so that the

trainees could expand their networks and share their experiences.

Mr. Ando expressed the hope that the twelfth DG Forum would provide all the participants with useful opportunities to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and to achieve the SDGs.

Mr. Riad Ragueb, Acting Director, IsDB

The year 2019 had been marked by the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), a substantive undertaking led by UNOSSC and to which all Member States of the United Nations and major development institutions had contributed. It had culminated in the formulation of the outcome document, which outlines many objectives, goals and areas of improvement for enhancing and scaling up South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2020, IsDB priorities had significantly shifted owing to the pandemic outbreak. A rapid realignment of development interventions had had to be undertaken to respond to the crisis. Despite that shift, the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations had continued to be a priority for IsDB. In particular, the Bank had continued its efforts to strengthen the national institutional arrangements of its member countries for South-South cooperation at the national and regional levels. In that regard, IsDB, together with the South Centre and in cooperation with UNOSSC, had developed the framework of "national ecosystems for South-South and triangular cooperation". Moreover, as an operational extension of the framework, the Bank had formulated a capacity development programme in collaboration with its strategic partners with a financial envelope of \$20 million. To advance South-South and triangular cooperation, IsDB had initiated several projects under that programme in line with the BAPA+40 recommendations.

Two major takeaways from the IsDB South-South cooperation experience during the COVID-19 pandemic are summarized by the words "solidarity" and "resilience". IsDB had been encouraged that many countries of the South had done their best to support one another to address the COVID-19 crisis. IsDB had partnered with UNOSSC to strengthen their collaboration with Comoros, the State of Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia to improve the capacity of their national medical labs. Furthermore, it had collaborated with Pakistan to support Somalia, which had benefited from the expertise of the Pasteur Institute of Senegal to assist 10 member countries in Africa to enhance their testing capacity.

For the first time, the Bank had also engaged a non-member country – Singapore – to connect its expertise with several countries, including Indonesia and Jordan, to build capacity in areas such as integrating artificial Intelligence into response efforts and producing high-performance respiratory masks.

While the countries of the South had done their best, overall, enhancing resilience still constituted a clear challenge. Reinforcing collaboration and improving existing systems and mechanisms of South-South and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels were indispensable. That required all stakeholders to look at South-South and triangular cooperation in a new light. The South and the North should align the existing mechanisms that they possess in areas including technological cooperation, know-how, trade, cross-border investment and financing of development. That was necessary to advance towards significant improvements in development cooperation and multilateralism that benefit all. Knowledge exchange is at the core of the answers to many of the existing challenges.

IsDB reiterated that stronger and effective cooperation was the answer to many of the existing global challenges. In that respect, it would continue to support South-South cooperation among its member countries and beyond by developing results-oriented partnerships,

formulating innovative mechanisms and approaches to solving development challenges, and remaining engaged in international platforms to contribute to the global conversation on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director, UNOSSC, Moderator of the DG Forum

The twelfth DG Forum would focus mainly on (a) BAPA+40 implementation and (b) COVID-19 responses:

(a) BAPA+40 implementation

- What important strides had been made to date and what critical areas still needed attention?
- What success factors could be prioritized to accelerate progress?
- What role had development cooperation agencies played in the progress?

(b) COVID-19 responses

- What kind of challenges did a participant's country or organization face, what kind of opportunities had been identified and what lessons had been learned during the COVID-19 crisis?
- During the pandemic, what kind of role could international and regional development institutions and think tanks play, especially through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation?
- What would be the way forward for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond?

The DG Forum would culminate with conclusions and recommendations on the way forward to strengthen and enforce cooperation and partnerships based on the ideas discussed during the Forum. All participants were encouraged to share ideas and inputs with the aim of implementing those recommendations.

Session 1

Taking Stock of Achievements for South-South and Triangular Cooperation Since BAPA+40: How Far Are We in Achieving the Goals Set Out in the Outcome Document?

MODERATOR

- **Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado**, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

PANELLISTS

- **Mr. Juan Roccatagliata**, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina
- **Ms. Anita Amorim**, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur**, Senior Partnership Officer (South-South and Triangular Cooperation), Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division, External Relations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary-General, UNCTAD

The Moderator of the first session stated that the main objective of the session would be to take stock of what had been achieved to date regarding the goals set out in the BAPA+40 outcome document, with a particular focus on the arrangements and roles of development cooperation agencies.

Case 1. Argentina

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina

BAPA+40 is considered as a roadmap for achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, countries had been facing big challenges to advance towards the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are highly important in moments of crisis. The BAPA+40 outcome document recognizes the significance of international development cooperation in its contribution to economic growth and international trade. Even in moments of major economic expansion of international trade and related prosperity, the role of international development cooperation is essential to achieve inclusive well-being for all and to complement the benefits of that economic growth.

Within the context of the pandemic, Argentina had worked closely with UNOSSC and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the country to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Several issues were highlighted:

- Different country programmes that link the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the needs and interests of Argentina at the national level were approved for implementation in the coming years. In that respect, one of the main challenges facing international development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, would be to find funding lines to enable the implementation of actions and programmes.
- Some of the main mandates of BAPA+40 are: (a) building strong institutions; (b) improving efficacy and inclusive partnerships for sustainable development; (c) sharing practices and experiences in the field of science and technology; (d) supporting the United Nations system including increasing the funding lines from many of its funds, programmes and agencies for international cooperation; and (e) pursuing the use of similar methodologies among different countries and regions to measure the impact of South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and other international development cooperation in the overall development process of countries.
- Argentina would be the chair of the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The country expected to work together with the different countries and regions to conduct a broad-based discussion on the implementation of the BAPA+40 goals and recommendations.

International development cooperation should have a fundamental role in addressing the challenges posed to humankind currently. Accordingly, international cooperation for development would play a critical role to prevent and overcome their negative impact on what some people in academia refer to as the “glass ceiling”.

Case 2. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, ILO

Since BAPA+40, ILO had reaffirmed the concept of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation modalities in its operational work. ILO works not only for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation but also with some submodalities such as city-to-city cooperation, fragile-to-fragile cooperation, and regional and subregional cooperation.

The role of ILO in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation is oriented towards reinforcing the capacities of interested stakeholders to make progress in attaining the objectives set out at BAPA+40. In that regard, ILO acts as a knowledge broker and facilitates activities to enhance strategies, policy dialogue, research, and the identification and dissemination of good practices. ILO advocates for leading dialogue and reaching consensus to build strategic partnerships for South-South and triangular cooperation activities. Moreover, ILO collects good practices that promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation following the criteria of adaptability, mutual benefit, peer learning, effectiveness, results and innovation.

With respect to the actions that ILO had implemented to advance towards the achievement of BAPA+40 recommendations, ILO had supported the exchange of good practices in innovative policies and approaches between countries. It had been contributing to South-South Galaxy systematically and to the ILO South-South Meeting Point platform (www.southsouth-point.net) through sharing good practices and information on South-South and triangular cooperation from several regions. Some examples from the regional-level approach are the social protection network in Africa, the small island developing States (SIDS) cooperation on climate resilience or the Samoa Action Plan in Asia; the regional initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour; and ILO support for refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Furthermore, ILO had been strengthening South-South cooperation, exchanging experiences among subregional and regional groupings, including working with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Arab Maghreb Union.

ILO is particularly focused on increasing partnerships under the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, with the aim to boost the impact on those fields. A key example was knowledge-sharing among the countries of Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation for building responsive, inclusive and comprehensive solutions towards transition to a formal economy.

Other key initiatives that ILO had undertaken to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation were the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme for Pacific government officials and non-governmental stakeholders. The programme provided training courses on labour migration governance; the promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities and treatment for all in the world of work to strengthen the agency of women through economic empowerment and financial inclusion; and the fostering of skills and the inclusion of young people and women in vulnerable situations.

ILO had been implementing South-South and triangular cooperation based on its strategy and frameworks, including its development cooperation strategy 2020–2025, together with various partners. Recently, it had developed a new platform on SDGs, United Nations reform and South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which constituted a key resource tool providing interactive self-learning modules on (a) SDGs and South-South and triangular cooperation linkage; (b) decent work and South-South and triangular cooperation; (c) United Nations reform and South-South and triangular cooperation; and (d) South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation step by step.

Case 3. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (South-South and Triangular Cooperation), Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division, External Relations Department, IFAD

The IFAD commitment to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had been highlighted in its Strategic Framework 2016–2025, which led to the adoption of several key institutional arrangements. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were featured as modalities to enhance country-level programmes, to expand partnerships and to increase access to knowledge. In past years, the corporate agenda had focused on four principal priorities: (a) mainstreaming South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into operations; (b) promoting knowledge exchange; (c) strengthening and broadening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation partnerships; and (d) improving the monitoring of the contribution of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

IFAD implements programmes and projects in line with strategies of national governments. To ensure the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into IFAD operations, a number of specific guidelines to assist and facilitate the incorporation of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into country strategies had been established in 2019. That had led to the development of a clear South-South and triangular cooperation narrative for the multi-year strategic programmes of nine countries in 2020. An outstanding example of mainstreaming South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation was the Atlas Mountains Rural Development Project implemented by the IFAD Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, which fostered knowledge exchanges and technical co-operation among Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania.

To support IFAD overall operations to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for proposals by the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility established in 2018 by IFAD with funding from the Government of China would be valuable to support the generation and exchange of innovative solutions and methodologies in the post-pandemic recovery period.

Promoting knowledge exchanges was a particularly relevant topic within the framework of the IFAD South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation strategy. Since BAPA+40, over 30 knowledge sharing and capacity-building workshops on sustainable agriculture, rural financing, water management and market access had been held. IFAD had greatly benefited from the institutional set-up of three South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation knowledge centres in Addis Ababa, Beijing and Brasilia.

The Rural Solutions Portal, a web-based platform dedicated to smallholder agriculture and rural development, was a key example of the work implemented by IFAD on development solutions and innovations. That portal included over 70 innovative agricultural and rural development solutions covering a wide range of topics, such as fisheries development, youth, climate, environment, innovation, technology and gender empowerment.

With regard to the role that development cooperation agencies could play in the process of enhancing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, a number of areas for further discussion were noted to stimulate further analysis: promoting rural productivity, adapting to climate change, introducing new technologies and strengthening farmer's organizations. Those activities would contribute to the IFAD overall goals of promoting inclusive and sustainable rural transformation as a unique way to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Question-and-answer Session

During the question-and-answer session, all panellists addressed the issue of the key role that development cooperation agencies play in promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation.

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Argentina, highlighted that cooperating with the private sector plays a key role to successfully implement South-South and triangular cooperation projects and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nevertheless, it is usual to face difficulties regarding financial issues, procedures and rules, which slow down the implementation of triangular cooperation projects. Mr. Roccatagliata also stressed that it would be important for multilateral agencies to advance towards more agile and flexible systems in order to further facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation activities. The significance of the concept of “corporate social responsibility” was particularly noted to improve funding lines from the private sector with the aim of strengthening the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations in the future.

Ms. Anita Amorim, ILO, observed that the COVID-19 pandemic could hamper the ability to achieve the BAPA+40 recommendations, since it is difficult to build networks without face-to-face meetings. Moreover, the digital gap deepens the vulnerability of those populations that cannot reach digital technologies, particularly in rural areas. The problems that had existed before the pandemic, such as child labour, the discrimination of migrant workers or trafficking, had been exacerbated. Ms. Amorim explained that ILO had undertaken a great deal of work on COVID-19 response and adaptation, with the aim of addressing and mitigating the impact of the pandemic. It had adapted all its training courses and training of trainers into a digital format. On the other hand, ILO had integrated the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic into new projects.

Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, IFAD, stated that, regarding the issue of how the United Nations could play a role in bringing together producers, practitioners and researchers from Southern countries, discussion of how the United Nations agencies and the international financial institutions (IFIs) could productively facilitate enhancing joint ventures and investments for developing countries was indispensable. She responded to the question of accelerating progress in the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document recommendations during the pandemic, stressing that all of the following areas strongly support inclusive and sustainable rural transformation:

- encouraging other countries to address climate challenges so as to be more resilient, for instance initiating subregional climate adaptation networks for countries sharing common characteristics;
- exchanging successful climate-change adaptation strategies and technologies, such as techniques for saving water and resources, drought resistant and/or salt-tolerant crops, and climate-smart agriculture;
- spreading innovative, resource-saving and productivity-enhancing technologies generated in the Global South, such as robots or precision agriculture; and
- finding a way to establish a platform for facilitating exchange and cooperation among farmers at the national, regional and global levels. IFAD had established the Rural Solutions Platform, where it supported the exchange of knowledge and experiences and promoted agricultural trade, especially bringing in the private sector.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director, UNOSSC, noted that all panellists had emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships to advance the SDGs and that a key example in relation to that topic had been the development of the COVID-19 vaccines. The need to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines had been particularly emphasized.

Session 2

Trends, Opportunities and Challenges Posed by the COVID-19 Crisis for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

MODERATOR

- **Mr. Carlos Correa**, Executive Director, South Centre

PANELLISTS

- **Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab**, Global Policy Adviser, Effective Development Cooperation, Effectiveness Group, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Ms. Ana Fernandes, Head**, Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa**, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
- **Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Mr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Moderator of the second session, indicated that the session would focus on the trends and challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and possible ways forward for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation within the context of the pandemic. The contributions would offer ample evidence that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation would be key elements of international cooperation and sustainable development. He explained that the South Centre is in itself a manifestation of South-South cooperation. The South Centre, based on the concept of a national ecosystem for South-South and triangular cooperation developed by IsDB, is engaged with improving the institutional capacity of developing countries to take part in South-South cooperation as suppliers and as beneficiaries.

There is a need to utilize all tools available to improve the situation of developing countries in terms of health and recovery of the economy. South-South cooperation could be a significant instrument to address the COVID-19 crisis and beyond to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Several examples showed the potential of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, Cuba had sent more than 1,200 medical doctors not only to developing countries but also to some developed ones to fight against the pandemic impact. In terms of vaccine distribution, two different perspectives should be considered: countries that are producers of vaccines and countries that are not producers of vaccines but that have also engaged in South-South cooperation. Among those in the first category, India had supplied and donated vaccines to its neighbouring countries and others beyond its borders, such as Caribbean countries. That was in addition to any exports on a commercial basis that could be made from India, since that country is a major producer of COVID-19 vaccines. China had donated vaccines to 53 countries according to available reports and is a major provider of vaccines on a commercial basis to many developing countries. Many developing countries had played a major role as producers of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. In some cases, they could be the only suppliers from which other developing countries could obtain vaccines. In the second category, non-producers of vaccines, it had also been possible to observe demonstrations of solidarity. For example, Chile had donated vaccines to other Latin American countries, such as Ecuador and Paraguay, to support those States in the fight against and the prevention of COVID-19 for health workers. Another example of South-South cooperation is the case of Argentina and Mexico, which jointly produced a COVID-19 vaccine.

Case 1. United Nations Development programme (UNDP)

Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab, Global Policy Adviser, Effective Development Cooperation, Effectiveness Group, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

One year after the beginning of the pandemic, crucial challenges still existed. The most vulnerable had suffered the most, and those who had already been left behind had been left even further behind in extreme poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis; it is a socioeconomic, peace and human rights crisis. To look forward to a better future, it would be imperative that the entire international community adopt a solidarity-driven approach and focus on strengthening resilience.

The indispensable role of international cooperation to drive sustainable development had been highlighted in the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. There had been an increased use of horizontal exchange and transfer of know-how and technology, generating new knowledge around the world since the beginning of the pandemic. Countries of the South had showed significant mutual support during the pandemic with more visible and intensive South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as well as global solidarity in the COVID-19 response and recovery.

For UNDP, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had become important tools for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic on the issues of health, crisis management and governance. One example relates to an agreement between UNDP and the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to carry out projects to help to improve the capability of the Asia and the Pacific region in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. The potential of digitalization to make progress regarding SDGs was demonstrated through initiatives such as Bangladesh's Access to Information (a2i) Programme, where different stakeholders collaborated with the Programme to replicate the digital centre initiative. Adopting innovations through the learning-network effect to tackle the surge of COVID-19 misinformation with gamification (the web app game CoronaChampaign 1.0) through the UNDP Accelerator Lab network was also introduced.

Some trends were highlighted in relation to the potential of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing towards the achievement of the SDGs. In a context where COVID-19 had changed the means of engagement, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had transformative power for digitalization. The digital divide poses a significant concern during the pandemic owing to the existing inequity in the access to those technologies. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have important potential to support overcoming the digital gap, share best practices and promote innovation, for instance in the fields of connectivity, digital economy, trade, investments, digital governance or technical cooperation. In addition, there is greater potential for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to address climate change, which had been recognized globally as becoming a long-term crisis as serious as that posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic offered a unique chance to actively address a green-economy recovery. Nevertheless, many countries faced gaps and constraints to access to finance, technological innovation, capacities or funding. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have significant potential to support countries to address those gaps.

Building back better from the impacts of the pandemic requires multi-stakeholder responses with short- and long-term objectives. It is necessary to strengthen institutionalization and cooperation across ministries, departments and agencies to plan, implement and evaluate South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and to ensure that those goals are in alignment with the national development plans.

As a way forward, there would be more opportunity to share Southern knowledge, innovations and solutions as well as to build partnerships to make progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Case 2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ms. Ana Fernandes, Head, Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD

Some of the existing challenges had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic but at the same time, it had given development practitioners the opportunity to rethink the way to approach development cooperation. That could be a good time to address how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could scale up solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the implementation of the SDGs, including a financing gap of \$4.2 trillion in 2020 to meet the SDGs; in relation to that issue, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could help in tackling the need for financing for development.

There was a risk, caused by the pandemic, that funds and resources would be shifted to national priorities instead of to international global public goods. Another challenge was to move to much faster, efficient, effective and impactful development cooperation. OECD was trying to address the common challenges that the Global South had faced in a more effective way by bringing triangular cooperation to the centre of some of the debates. It was committed to having triangular cooperation be assessed and mainstreamed into the donors' programmes. To implement BAPA+40 recommendations, OECD had worked with donors in

a knowledge-sharing exercise to analyse how they could learn together in a way that would mainstream triangular cooperation into the programmes and projects that OECD developed across different sectors. A broad approach to triangular cooperation would be essential. Furthermore, OECD had been leading the analysis of data evidence on triangular cooperation, sharing knowledge from repositories of information, fostering dialogue among partners and engaging in advocacy efforts based on research outcomes. OECD and RIS had recently published a working paper entitled “Triangular co-operation with India: Working with civil society organisations”.

In past years, OECD had learned that all the regions around the world used triangular cooperation to scale up solutions and that more donors engaged in triangular cooperation. In sum, triangular cooperation should be an investment in partnership. It was also significant to bring civil society organizations with the private sector into the scope of triangular cooperation. Three main challenges to advancing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the current pandemic were as follows:

- *the implementation of the SDGs and how to make progress towards a global public-goods agenda from localization to globalization in the development cooperation setting.* It would be necessary to consider how to move from working on the ground on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to influence the global public-goods agenda at the global level. That dimension was considered as an opportunity to change the landscape of multilateralism since the governance of multilateral aid was in the process of changing and that could be the way to bring the voices from the ground to the global level, where South-South and triangular cooperation could contribute to facilitating the dialogue;
- *the institutional framework of all the cooperation agencies around the world. To scale up innovations,* share knowledge and work efficiently and impactfully to respond to the global challenges was indispensable. As a result, consideration should be given to how to move from a step-by-step approach to another approach where all available technologies and knowledge are pooled and used together; and
- *fostering partnerships beyond their usual aspects and creating fundamental trust.* OECD would continue working with member countries and other partners to promote triangular cooperation, including through the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation.

Case 3. Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, PPD

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) promotes South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation among its current 27 member countries representing more than 60 per cent of the world population, working to find solutions to challenging and emerging issues in reproductive health, family planning, population and development.

With the aim of promoting its goals through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, PPD, its member countries and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) annually organize the International Interministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development. That forum is a key opportunity for policymakers, leaders, experts and health professionals from governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and development partners to discuss the progress on the implementation of the global health-and-population-related agenda not only among PPD member countries but also other Southern countries

The global response to the current pandemic should be guided by solidarity and strengthening of strategic partnerships. To mitigate the COVID-19 impacts, the need to reinforce the exchange and scaling up of good practices had been emphasized, as had improving capacity development and resilience; mobilizing domestic and international resources to recover

from the pandemic; and increasing knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and transfer of technologies through the promotion of South-South cooperation in policy responses. PPD had made progress towards the achievement of the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25) held in Nairobi in 2019 and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In order to fight against the challenges posed by the pandemic and to continue advancing its global health-and-development agenda, PPD had adopted the use of digital technologies to organize virtual exchanges and webinars. It had conducted several virtual activities to share knowledge and practices, with a particular focus on Southern countries in the COVID-19 context. PPD, UNFPA and the National Health Commission of China had successfully organized an Interministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation, several webinars on reproductive health, and maternal and child health services with the aim of sharing best experiences in China and other PPD member countries.

PPD called upon governments and international partners to increase global solidarity and the strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation programmes. The need to join efforts to mitigate and overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis with the aim of leaving no one behind was particularly emphasized.

Case 4. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS

The Global South required that three main points in terms of economic cooperation be considered and addressed. First, the impact of the pandemic on gross domestic product (GDP) was enormous, especially because of the huge lockdowns that were imposed across the countries. There was a clear need for domestic resources and local secure employment for livelihood security in Southern countries. From that perspective, focusing on the basis for improving their international trade and reducing the transaction costs in trade by adopting trade facilitation measures would be important for job creation. There was a huge gap of \$4.2 trillion in SDG financing, as mentioned earlier. BAPA+40 provided the roadmap and opportunities for development practitioners to leverage science, technology, innovation, e-commerce, etc. Second, global growth needed to be promoted with more inclusive and environmentally friendly policies. Southern countries were leaving behind a carbon footprint. Third, the leading emerging Southern economies would have a great responsibility to strengthen the institutional setting and identify external assistance to be mobilized with the aim of building a better future.

Southern countries would need to come together to explore how to build better societies.

Question-and-answer Session

The Moderator, Mr. Carlos Correa, highlighted several key points of the panellists' interventions, the first being Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab's reference to the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of addressing climate change and the importance of transferring know-how and sharing knowledge about ways in which the crisis could be managed. Regarding Ms. Ana Fernandes' intervention, he noted that she had made significant suggestions, especially concerning the concept of "working for an agenda of global public goods", the promotion of triangular cooperation and the concept of a "sectoral approach". Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa had mentioned the key contributions that PPD had made towards the achievement of the objectives emanating from BAPA+40 and of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi had explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had showed the weaknesses of the health systems and the vulnerabilities and economic challenges faced by developing countries. Accordingly, there was an urgent need to address those matters efficiently and in an inclusive manner.

Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, IsDB, asked what would constitute enhancing proof of multilateralism, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Carlos Correa, South Centre, noted that it would be essential to strengthen the multilateral system, weakened in recent times by unilateral actions, the so-called “vaccine nationalism”, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current challenges that countries faced included the need to rebuild the system, to gain the trust of all actors that the multilateral system can promote development and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In sum, the COVID-19 pandemic called for a process to make the multilateral system stronger and more inclusive.

One participant asked what was not working, what needed to be changed and what specific areas South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could support in improving the achievement of the SDGs.

Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS, highlighted that the South had to stop the rhetoric. The economic connection among the Southern economies was only going to take them forward. Furthermore, there was a need to energize processes in the fields of banking structures, finance, trade, technology or investment, among others. In that context, the strengthening of partnerships and pragmatism and enhancing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation would be indispensable to achieving a quick and green recovery.

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, PPD, emphasized that multilateralism should be oriented towards greater efficiency and that more attention should be paid to the specific needs of the countries, communities, multilateral agencies and organizations. In addition, there were some commitments that needed to be fulfilled, such as the mobilization of domestic resources, which were required to develop South-South and triangular cooperation activities. The strengthening of public-private partnerships was mentioned as a key issue in order to move forward in terms of South-South cooperation and to have more impact in developing countries.

Ms. Ana Fernandes, OECD, explained that partnerships in themselves were highly important in the projects that OECD develops because creating trust is indispensable to move from local initiatives to a global agenda. It is necessary to start trusting partners to work together and to begin discussing solution-oriented development cooperation instead of starting to discuss politics. In sum, working together is imperative to find good solutions, invest in global public goods, try to scale up solutions and adapt those elements to different contexts.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, highlighted the key message of less rhetoric and more action that had emerged during the conversation and the fact that the session had shown how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are multi-stakeholder in nature. The contributions in the session had provided ample evidence that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation would be key elements of international cooperation and sustainable development.

Breakout Session for the Americas

MODERATOR

- **Mr. Enrique Oviedo**, Political Affairs Officer, Commission Secretariat, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

PANELLISTS

- **Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls**, Director General, Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (APC-Colombia)
- **Ms. Maria Elena Alcaraz**, Coordinator of International Development Forums, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)
- **Mr. Juan Roccatagliata**, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina
- **Mr. Marcio Correa**, Senior Analyst, Multilateral Technical Cooperation, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)

Mr. Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer, Commission Secretariat, ECLAC

The breakout session deepened the analysis of the overall theme of the twelfth DG Forum from a regional perspective. The main idea behind the Forum was to discuss how to overcome challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and how to implement effective South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation actions and interventions to achieve the recommendations set out in the BAPA+40 outcome document. South-South cooperation was recognized as an important tool to link countries, in particular to share know-how, expertise, technology and resources with the aim of meeting development challenges while preserving the principles of solidarity and national ownership. According to data from ECLAC, the COVID-19 pandemic had led to the worst economic, social and productive crisis in the region in the last 120 years with a fall of 7.7 per cent in regional GDP in 2020¹.

Case 1. Colombia

Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls, Director General, APC-Colombia

Measuring how far along countries were in achieving the BAPA+40 recommendations was not an easy task, partly because goals were varied and many of them called for deepening some lines of ongoing work. However, there were specific areas that could still be improved, such as the promotion of effective cooperation, the increase of financial and technical resources for cooperation, the management of foreign debt or the fostering of multi-stakeholder and cross-border cooperation. The most pressing challenge in 2020 had been related to scientific cooperation and technological transfers in mutually beneficial conditions. To respond to challenges, greater commitment from leaders and institutions implementing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation would be needed.

Regarding the current opportunities and challenges, the COVID-19 crisis clearly showed that the well-being of people and countries depends on the well-being of neighbours as people and as countries. The APC-Colombia work agenda in events during 2020 had revolved around the idea of interdependence and the understanding that the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic would demand joint and innovative work. The global interdependence showed how the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted all around the world but, at the same time, how quickly many solutions had been developed by partners and had begun to be shared for the benefit of all.

The impacts of the pandemic should be addressed through increased and deeper South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. A more ambitious agenda could involve more actors interested in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation from more countries at a lower cost through digitalization.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, APC-Colombia had innovated its working methods to bring new partnerships, contributions and technology to continue making progress towards the achievement of the BAPA+40 recommendations and to foster the adaptability of the international cooperation. In 2020, knowledge exchange led by APC-Colombia had reached a wider audience, and APC-Colombia had developed 1,755 projects with partners around the world, where most of them were managed in virtual forms.

As an expression of solidarity with the Global South within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, APC-Colombia had partnered with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) to support the way towards the achievement of equitable access to vaccines. Moreover, APC-Colombia had dedicated over \$700,000 through its International Cooperation and Assistance Fund to provide humanitarian assistance to countries specifically to help to manage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ <https://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/latin-america-and-caribbean-will-have-positive-growth-2021-it-will-not-be-enough>

APC-Colombia had developed a knowledge hub on South-South cooperation to deepen the economic, commercial and sustainable development relations between Colombia and other partners. That knowledge hub would have three workstreams: a South-South cooperation campus, a collaborative space to strengthen the capacities for formulating the projects, and a community of practice on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. APC-Colombia expected that that knowledge hub could provide a platform to showcase the best practices around the Global South as a living resource of applied knowledge.

Case 2. Mexico

Ms. Maria Elena Alcaraz, Coordinator of International Development Forums, AMEXCID

AMEXCID is committed to continue strengthening multilateral cooperation as the only effective way to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic. Within the framework of the COVID-19 response and recovery measures, Mexico had been working to turn those challenges into opportunities to improve its health system and to overcome the structural problems related to the informal economy, which requires support and protection.

The COVID-19 pandemic had posed a major challenge for students at all levels ranging from primary schools to universities. In that context, the pandemic had also brought to light the existing digital gap. With the aim of overcoming those educational challenges, the academic year 2020/21 would continue to be a year of distance education. In that respect, education had been provided through Internet platforms but owing to the digital gap, it was currently also provided through open TV, and new channels on public and private television were open to facilitate classes broadcast on television. Because of the need for students to return to their face-to-face classes, teachers, professors and personnel from public and private institutions had been prioritized to receive vaccines.

The Government of Mexico, including AMEXCID, was highly committed to strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to help to overcome the current worldwide challenges. The endeavours and support to leave no one behind should be made in a comprehensive way, as one international community, to overcome the COVID-19 crisis.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico had continued working in different key areas. The Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-south-eastern Mexico had been initiated in 2019, supported by ECLAC, to improve the quality of life of the population that could be impelled to emigrate for economic reasons. Within the framework of that comprehensive plan, two initiatives had been shown to be very successful: (a) young people building the future in urban and semi-urban areas, and (b) sowing life, focusing on the improvement and effectiveness of farmers' work and livelihoods.

Mexico had promoted the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 74/274 in April 2020, "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19". That resolution represented a global milestone because it led to the adoption of the COVAX mechanism, whose aim is to ensure equitable access to vaccines, medications and medical equipment to combat COVID-19, providing mechanisms for financing and distribution, particularly in the Global South, which might struggle to acquire them. The action to jointly produce the AstraZeneca vaccine had been led by Argentina and Mexico, involving private industries of each country, in coordination with the Slim Foundation of Mexico. Argentina generated the medical contents, and Mexico was in charge of their bottling and logistics to distribute the vaccine among Latin American and Caribbean countries that had contracts with AstraZeneca.

Case 3. Argentina

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina

The BAPA+40 outcome document was considered as a key roadmap to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in the medium and long term and to try to generate the conditions for development in the future regardless of the economic situation. In that sense, cooperation should further support the inclusion of marginalized populations in economic growth and well-being. Fostering regional cooperation to implement its recommendations is another important element of BAPA+40.

During the last 30 years, Argentina had been developing important actions and initiatives in the field of development cooperation to face national and regional challenges. The Argentine Fund for International Cooperation, which had been created 28 years ago, had cooperated with more than 80 countries through mutual learning and exchange of best practices. Its aim is to promote cooperation and strengthen institutionalization, particularly through the development of an evaluation system for projects and the expansion of cooperation to integrate the private sector to engage more on triangular cooperation.

Given the difficulties that the middle-income countries had faced to access funds for cooperation, the multilateral system needed to be strengthened, especially the United Nations agencies and funds working for the Americas, which needed to count on funding lines arising from contributions from countries, the private sector and international development banks. Argentina had been working on that intensively.

In terms of triangular cooperation, Argentina had also been working intensively with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, PAHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In the Americas, several regional integration mechanisms were committed to advancing in international development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation. ECLAC, playing a key role in connecting the region and the United Nations, was firmly focused on cooperation in science and technology with a long-term strategic impact on development. Argentina was going to assume the Chairmanship of the ECLAC Committee on South-South Cooperation. Regarding MERCOSUR, it had concentrated its development cooperation work in the field of trade integration. Ibero-America had well-developed technologies and organizational capacity to collect information for diagnostic reporting, with the aim to jointly develop cooperation programmes and projects in the Ibero-American countries. The Pan American system, including the Organization of American States (OAS), had been highly active within the framework of international development cooperation.

Case 4. Brazil

Mr. Marcio Correa, Senior Analyst, Multilateral Technical Cooperation, ABC

The preparation of developing countries for post-pandemic recovery required the adoption of simultaneous measures in different fields including education, public health services, scientific research and revitalization of the economy. Based on its multidimensional nature, South-South cooperation was well positioned to integrate all the different factors that promote structural transformations in developing countries.

The scale of the challenges that the Global South faces called for actions articulated with other types of cooperation and flexible formats compatible with the principles of South-South cooperation. In the coming years, it would be indispensable to find solutions to those challenges in Southern countries. Some key issues of interest and recommendations were the following:

- There is a need to expand the exchanges of experiences among developing countries with the aim of strengthening international cooperation.
- The issue of diversification of financial sources to support South-South cooperation had been repeatedly addressed at BAPA+40, held in 2019. Accordingly, it is imperative to diversify financial sources without compromising the practice and principles of South-South cooperation. It is necessary to rely on more efficient strategies to attract public and private financing and to increase knowledge about the diversification and flexibility of financial resources.
- It would be important to strengthen rural product chains in developing countries, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, family farming, and vectors for creating wealth, jobs and productive innovation. South-South cooperation could offer opportunities for training courses and specialized consulting services that would benefit all relevant economic actors.
- It would be significant to develop methods of measuring South-South cooperation on the basis of available and reliable data to assess its impact, transparency and accountability. The mapping of financial resource flows should be considered as complementary to those premises.
- Technological development was considered to play an even more critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic. In that sense, several measures to address the prevention and impacts of the pandemic, such as the strengthening of emergency healthcare, medical production, the elimination of learning gaps for children, the expansion of social protection networks and the generation of new jobs, would demand the mobilization of technological and innovative solutions.

Question-and-answer Session

Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, ISDB, highlighted that private-sector engagement was a topic that had come up often in the discussions and asked if there were some good examples and lessons learned from the Americas where private-sector engagement was enhanced, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, stated that vaccine development was a great example showing an effective partnership between the public and private sectors. Nevertheless, it was necessary to make sure that there was equitable access to vaccines.

He thanked all panellists for highlighting the role of BAPA+40 as a connector between regional and global cooperation. The session had given ample evidence of the scope of the engagement in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Americas. COVID-19 had provided opportunities to work together with partners, to collaborate and coordinate, since no one would be safe until everyone was safe in the context of the pandemic.

The upcoming session of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which would take place in June 2021, would provide an opportunity to further discuss the topics of the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations and the roles of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation during the pandemic.

Ms. Maria Elena Alcaraz, AMEXCID, stressed the important contribution of the private health-care sector in Mexico regarding the emergency caused by the pandemic. As a good example of collaboration between the private and public sectors, the Government of Mexico had made it possible for about 200 private hospitals to help COVID-19 patients throughout the country. Those private hospitals had dedicated their spaces for COVID-19 patients and people who had limited access to the public sector. The private sector was also working with the public sector in a joint research effort for vaccines and had been very successful in developing and delivering respirators. In that respect, during the first wave of the pandemic, Mexico had donated respirators to countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region that had needed that kind of equipment. The importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors to avoid duplication of efforts and to share knowledge instead of inventing new initiatives was also noted.

Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls, APC-Colombia, mentioned the example of the chambers of commerce in Colombia. The COVID-19 impact on economic entrepreneurship, especially informal sectors, had been one of the wider concerns in the country. Collaboration between the chambers of commerce and the government institutions that address the economic re-activation working to bring those small entrepreneurs onto the digital platforms for e-commerce had been one of the biggest challenges and had required efforts to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Public and private collaboration was a particularly important topic because micro-entrepreneurship accounted for over 80 per cent of the industry in Colombia. Mr. Marcio Correa, ABC, referred to some examples to explain the strength of the public- and private sector cooperation in Brazil. At the beginning of the pandemic, ABC had had projects in partnership with UNDP where several Brazilian companies had provided funds for cooperation studies focusing on the post-pandemic phase. The idea of those studies was to add value for the post-pandemic recovery and regional development. In addition, some companies in Brazil had developed less expensive equipment to be provided to hospitals from the public health system in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Argentina, presented two examples of cooperation with the private sector. The first one was related to the work that the private sector had been developing with some ministries, in particular the Ministry of Social Development, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The second one was the work developed together with IsDB and other development banks within the framework of triangular cooperation, particularly in countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, noted that the current session had brought to the fore significant examples of how to advance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. The topics addressed by all panellists and their examples of how they had engaged with the private sector were important aspects to revitalize global partnerships and sustainable development to advance towards the achievement of SDGs.

Day 2,
18 March 2021

Breakout Session for Asia

MODERATOR

- **Ms. Nozomi Iwama**, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

PANELLISTS

- **H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra**, Ambassador, Additional Secretary, Development Partnership Administration, Ministry of External Affairs, India
- **H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah**, Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
- **Mr. Tian Lin**, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), China
- **Ms. Elenore Kang**, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Programmes, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- **Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra**, Programme Officer, Capacity Development and Partnerships Section, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Ms. Nozomi Iwama, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Development, JICA

The objectives of the breakout session were to take stock and reaffirm the achievements and challenges that had been faced to implement the BAPA+40 outcome document recommendations; to review the challenges and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic for South-South and triangular cooperation; and to share practical knowledge and experiences of South-South and triangular cooperation, particularly in the COVID-19 context but also beyond, to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ms. Iwama noted key take-aways from the two plenary sessions held on 17 March. Session 1 had taken stock of the achievements since BAPA+40, such as the incorporation of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into respective strategies, promoting and mainstreaming those modalities through knowledge-sharing, enhancement of their effective methodologies of monitoring and evaluation, and establishing a platform where partners from different countries could interact. Participants had emphasized that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation needed more flexible rules and systematized monitoring and evaluation methods so that private-sector involvement could be encouraged more. Session 2 had focused on the challenges and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and on how South-South and triangular cooperation should be positioned in the current context. All the panellists shared the view that the COVID-19 pandemic was not only a health crisis but also a social, economic, security and humanitarian crisis, widening the existing financing gaps and thus negatively impacting the achievement of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had a significant role in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and resource mobilization to build back better and greener based on solidarity, multilateralism and the promotion of innovation.

Case 1. India

H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Ambassador, Additional Secretary, Development Partnership Administration, Ministry of External Affairs, India

During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, India had recognized the importance of public messages and communications, had overcome domestic and international migration of large numbers of people, and had succeeded in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines and providing medical equipment to other countries.

First, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it had been critical for the Government of India to send clear public messages and communications to 1.3 billion people. India is extremely diverse – people with various social, economic and cultural backgrounds, with multi-party settings and with different States run by different political parties – so sending a common message to fight against the pandemic had been significant.

Second, as the crisis had been prolonged, India had had to deal with a huge internal migration, movements of people within the country. For instance, it had had to cope with the relocation of 10 million people from one part of the country to another part.

Third, in addition to internal movement, India had had to deal with international movement. There were a large number of diasporas and Indian students abroad; the largest-ever repatriation exercise from over 100 countries had been conducted. Furthermore, India had experienced the repatriation of 110,000 foreigners stranded in India. It had been a unique experience, and a spirit of cooperation had been essential.

Finally, during the pandemic, India had contributed to manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines and providing medical equipment. The country had provided COVID vaccines, personal protective equipment and ventilators to over 150 countries. India became the largest manufacturer of vaccines; it committed to bring 9 million doses of vaccines for 55 countries and 1.1 billion

doses through the COVAX scheme. Currently, 72 countries had been supplied with 60 million doses of vaccines. India had placed around \$50 million dollars through the international global vaccine alliance.

Case 2. Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah, Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

The COVID-19 pandemic had impacted not only the health and economic sectors but also every aspect of people's lives including the social aspect as well as education, tourism, science and technology. Managing the pandemic had been complex owing to uncertainty and lack of information. Consequently, the Government had implemented a multidimensional policy approach. The National COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery Committee had coordinated responses at the national level, and the Government had liaised closely with regional governors and mayors to contain the spread of the virus at the local level.

Considering the regional and global levels, Indonesia had been active in supporting the accessibility and affordability of the COVID-19 vaccine through multilateral mechanisms. As an example, it had served as the Chair of the 2020 Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative on the theme of "affordable health care for all". With regard to the United Nations, Indonesia had initiated three resolutions on the global health pandemic.

In the context of South-South cooperation, the Government of Indonesia had provided grant assistance to several countries in the Asia-Pacific region to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. In the field of lessons learned accumulated regarding those issues, Indonesia encouraged building preparedness and resilience with respect to the health system that would impact the acceleration of the economic recovery and access to vaccines. It was committed to supporting access to and distribution of vaccines, particularly for the least developed countries.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia continuously maintains close coordination between the central government and local governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic nationally.

Case 3. China

Mr. Tian Lin, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, CIDCA, China

The COVID-19 pandemic had brought severe challenges but at the same time new vigour and vitality to South-South cooperation. The world needs close cooperation, great contributions to the Global South, and more resilient economies and societies to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the pandemic, China had launched an emergency humanitarian action involving intensive aid with wide coverage. For instance, the country had provided personal protective equipment to over 160 countries and international organizations, it had assisted countries in purchasing medical supplies from China, and it had sent 36 Chinese medical-expertise groups to 34 countries to share its experiences and work with local medical authorities and experts. Furthermore, China had assisted other developing countries with a large number of public health facilities, which had played positive roles in helping developing countries to increase the ability to fight against the pandemic. China had fully implemented the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, with the total debt suspension amount reaching \$1.3 billion. The country had committed to providing 10 million doses of Chinese-made vaccines through the COVAX mechanism to contribute to the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries. China would help other developing countries to restore losses in economic and social development caused by the virus.

Global development partnership is an important part of the 2030 Agenda, and China had always been an active advocate and practitioner of that partnership. The country held dialogues and exchanges with international institutions and bilateral donors to explore cooperation, seeking

for more equitable, balanced global development partnerships. International organizations including the United Nations could serve as the core and play a big role, and the private sectors, social groups and charitable organizations could play a bigger role as well.

It would be essential to strengthen solidarity to meet global challenges. The principles of solidarity, cooperation, responsibility, action, partnership, equality, openness and inclusiveness should be respected. China would firmly support multilateralism, take an active part in bilateral and multilateral dialogues and cooperation, and enhance communication and coordination with other countries and international organizations to advance South-South and triangular cooperation and implement the 2030 Agenda.

Case 4. Singapore

Ms. Elenore Kang, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Programmes, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had been critical for global COVID-19 recovery, and Singapore stood ready to work with countries and international partners to limit the global spread of the pandemic and support recovery plans of developing countries. Singapore had made over \$15 million in in-kind and monetary contributions to support efforts of developing countries to fight against the pandemic. In addition, it had supported “vaccine multilateralism” and the fair and equitable distribution of vaccine to all countries to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore had also been committed to maintaining connectivity for regional integration and economic development across the region.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore had continued to run capacity development programmes through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) for developing countries, which had shifted from face-to-face courses to online courses. The SCP had had to adapt and overcome challenges arising from the new online modality, such as poor Internet connectivity and lack of face-to-face interaction. Singapore shared some of its observations and best practices in running virtual courses. During the pandemic, close to 2,000 participants from over 126 countries and organizations had participated in 105 virtual courses on topics including COVID-19 pandemic management and sustainable infrastructure. The theme for the SCP in 2021 is “recovery, resilience and reinvention”, which reflects the need for the Global South to strengthen capabilities and enhance resilience in response to the new normal brought about by the pandemic. However, the SCP would also continue to offer courses on sustainability and connectivity, given the importance of tackling long-term transnational challenges such as climate change.

Through the SCP, Singapore hoped to continue exchanging best practices and experiences with fellow Southern countries as part of its efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation and support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Case 5. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra, Programme Officer, Capacity Development and Partnerships Section, ESCAP

The Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum (DG Forum) for South-South and Triangular Cooperation had been established by ESCAP, UNOSSC and the Government of Thailand in 2018 to facilitate the sharing of the region’s experiences, lessons learned and good practices in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. The third Asia-Pacific DG Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, on the theme of “the role of South-South cooperation in building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”, took place virtually on 25 November 2020, jointly organized by the UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, the Government of Indonesia, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency and ESCAP and attended by 23 countries.

During the third Asia-Pacific DG Forum, several key points had been raised. First was the crucial need to leverage regional, subregional and national cooperation for greater access to information and innovation in support for South-South cooperation, and the need to promote the exchange of South-South and triangular cooperation good practices and sharing of knowledge and experiences, including to maximize and scale up the use of existing regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms to achieve greater effectiveness. Those mechanisms included the Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum, the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development that ESCAP leads, the UNOSSC South-South Galaxy portal, and the SDG help desk that ESCAP had established.

Furthermore, it is important to better align and match available resources with the needs of the countries of the region as providers and beneficiaries/users of South-South and triangular cooperation. The third Asia-Pacific DG Forum recognized that South-South cooperation along with North-South and triangular cooperation would remain as one of the essential modalities to implement the 2030 agenda and to build back from the pandemic. Based on the discussion at the regional DG Forum, ESCAP had prepared a background paper on the role of South-South cooperation in building back better from COVID-19 in the region. The paper was intended to assess the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in response to the recovery from the pandemic, emphasizing the vital importance of multilateralism, regional and subregional cooperation, and the role of the United Nations as global and regional facilitator. Further support for solidarity and cooperation and the promotion of South-South cooperation was recommended as well.

In terms of the roles that international and regional organizations could play in South-South cooperation, in the 2020 regional DG Forum, representatives of regional and subregional organizations in the Asia and the Pacific region had described inspiring acts of solidarity when combating the devastating pandemic.

As a way forward for South-South and triangular cooperation in the region in the current context, further review of regional and subregional mechanisms in support of South-South and triangular cooperation and assessment of the capacities, needs and priorities of beneficiary countries with regard to South-South cooperation would be essential.

ESCAP looked forward to working with partners for the fourth Asia Pacific DG Forum, which would, it was hoped, coincide with the Global South-South Development Expo later in 2021.

Question-and-answer Session

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, stated that the countries in the region had manifested solidarity and cooperation and that it would be important to share their experiences of managing crises in order for them to be replicated in other regions, particularly on the issue of the development, production and dissemination of vaccines. Mr. Iziraren asked the panellists if there was any specific experience in public-private partnerships (PPPs) within the framework of partnership-building.

H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, India, stated that it was necessary to share more live consultations, ideas and dialogue to harmonize efforts and avoid duplications. Digital solutions and technologies were also highlighted as key tools to advance towards the new normal.

Ms. Nozomi Iwama, JICA, explained that technologies and digitalization would be indispensable tools to leave no one behind.

H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah, Indonesia, emphasized that access to vaccines is essential in all countries to recover from the pandemic. To do so, it would be imperative to encourage the private sector to support governmental efforts to increase access to vaccines.

Mr. Tian Lin, CIDCA, explained that the Chinese private sector was playing an important role in South-South and triangular cooperation efforts, providing health, educational and agricultural support and other basic services to local communities against natural disasters.

Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra, ESCAP, noted that the COVID-19 pandemic is a megatrend accelerator. Because of the complexity of the challenges to be addressed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it was necessary to explore all forms of partnerships, including new and innovative types of partnerships such as with the private sector.

Ms. Elenore Kang, Singapore, stated that countries needed to engage all stakeholders such as the Government, the private sector and the general population in order to respond to the pandemic effectively. That was especially true for small States such as Singapore. For example, as part of the Singapore pandemic response, the Government had worked with private-sector health-care providers to roll out vaccination programmes efficiently. With regard to how Singapore had continued to boost trade during the pandemic, Singapore was committed to free trade as a small and open economy. It had taken steps to maintain connectivity by ensuring that goods continued to move safely through its airports and ports and over land.

Mr. Ahmed Faruk, IsDB, asked about views regarding what development cooperation should look like after the pandemic and what needed to be improved to be more effective in South-South cooperation based on the experiences of Asia and its lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Aalia Jafar, Director, International Relations, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), noted that one of the areas highlighted the previous day had been the need to boost trade to recover from the economic impact. In that respect, he asked what actions were being considered to achieve that goal faster and to improve in the field of investment.

Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff, IsDB, asked what had been the experience in engaging with the private sector to mobilize financial resources for South-South and triangular cooperation and how one could incentivize the private sector to commit funds to such activities to promote in-depth public-private partnerships.

H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, India, highlighted that sharing ideas would be very helpful to prepare better and respond effectively. No solution fits all, so innovative solutions are necessary to achieve more impactful outcomes.

H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah, Indonesia, noted that it was necessary to maximize the use of digital platforms and address the digital divide since those tools were very valuable to facilitate cooperation and partnerships.

Mr. Tian Lin, CIDCA, answered that promoting trade would be indispensable for advancing the recovery from the pandemic and supporting developing countries to build trade infrastructure and to enhance trade abilities. He stated that it was necessary to improve the measuring of the impact of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

Ms. Elenore Kang, Singapore, highlighted the challenges of effective measurement of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. For example, the SCP focuses on sharing Singapore policies, experiences and best practices through capacity-building courses and practical exposure for fellow developing-country participants. Ultimately, it is a challenge to quantify the value of such efforts, since their impact is largely determined by how the participants choose to follow up. That would also differ from country to country, since participants would have to adapt the lessons learned to fit their own national circumstances.

Mrs. Rafedah Abd Aziz, Malaysia, explained that to build resilience and increase preparedness, particularly among developing countries, greater exchanges and sharing of knowledge, science and technology, financing and digitalization of information and communications technology (ICT) were crucial for developing countries. Four decades had past, but many developing countries were still far behind in terms of development and socioeconomic achievement. In that connection, one question was how the United Nations and regional development partners could play a more constructive and consolidating role to enhance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in partnership with national governments and private partners.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, stated that the DG Forum is a platform to promote multilateralism and to catalyse partnerships, cooperation and coordination even during the pandemic. He also said that it was necessary to involve the private sector, civil society organizations, scientific research institutions and other key interested actors to find solutions collectively.

Breakout Session for Africa, the Middle East and Europe

MODERATOR

- **Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken**, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, IsDB

PANELLISTS

- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khalil**, Ambassador, Secretary-General, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Methqal**, Ambassador, Director General, Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI)
- **H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi**, Ambassador, Director General, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA)
- **Mr. Rahman Nurdun**, Vice-President, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)
- **Ms. Aliya Agazadeh**, Deputy Director, Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA)
- **Mr. Helge Espe**, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec)
- **Ms. Sara Hamouda**, SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, IsDB

During his introductory remarks, Mr. Ahmed highlighted that there had been enriching exchanges of knowledge and experiences during the DG Forum plenary and breakout sessions, with the aim of making progress towards the achievement of the recommendations of the BAPA+40 outcome document and with respect to the challenges and opportunities arising during the COVID-19 pandemic. A further aim was to discuss how practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation could leverage the opportunities to improve develop co-operation.

Case 1. Egypt

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khalil, Ambassador, Secretary-General, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)

The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), founded in 2014, is the development arm of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It serves as the main Egyptian institution mandated to promote South-South cooperation; it is particularly focused on South-South cooperation in Africa. EAPD works on public health improvement in Africa, providing medicines, capacity-building programmes and workshops in the health sector and facilitating humanitarian relief aid and assistance when needed.

EADP cooperates with regional partners such as IsDB and national and international organizations such as JICA and medical institutions. It also provides university scholarships for African students in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine of Ain Shams University. That support is indispensable to build capacities and empower local communities in Africa through a human-centred approach. Moreover, EAPD is committed to making progress towards the reduction and eradication of poverty in all of its forms and dimensions with diverse stakeholders.

Developing countries are at greater risk for global shock. It is crucial to support developing countries to address priorities and the most urgent needs in the current crisis through sub-regional, regional and interregional collaboration. Through the essence and principles of South-South and triangular cooperation, EAPD adopts a demand-driven approach by responding to the priority needs of the countries of the South, especially for Africa. It is committed to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in a way that helps to change the realities of communities and address fragile contexts. In sum, EAPD is responding to the economic, social and development challenges that people in Southern countries are facing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and working towards the achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Case 2. Morocco

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Methqal, Ambassador, Director General, Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI)

Morocco, under the leadership of the King, had been very involved in the promotion of South-South cooperation with various partners in the last several decades, and especially the BAPA+40 implementation process more recently. AMCI, in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, had worked on developing and implementing development cooperation programmes for partner countries. Currently, Morocco had worked on launching its national network of South-South cooperation actors in the country with the public and private sectors and civil society organizations.

During the pandemic, AMCI had been promoting regional cooperation. For instance, private sectors in African countries had participated in online training courses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture sector to develop technologies. AMCI

and IsDB had conducted an online evaluation mission with a partner country in Africa.

Ambassador Methqal highlighted that the King of Morocco is highly committed to supporting the African countries to overcome the pandemic, especially its economic, social and medical aspects. For that purpose, Morocco had made a significant donation to 21 African States, including 10 million masks and 218 tonnes of medical goods through private-public partnership. AMCI had worked on updating the strategic development plan to include more online training courses and online missions utilizing new technologies.

Case 3. Palestine

H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi, Director General, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA)

No single country can deal with the current pandemic individually. Thus, strengthening the promotion and coordination among all countries to find solutions collectively to the problems and challenges that countries face within the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic would be indispensable.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, PICA had worked with IsDB in different activities including in the health-care sector. In that regard, PICA would provide Sudan with local capacities and training opportunities for doctors at national laboratories. Also, it had facilitated the medical interventions in Afghanistan through a transfer-of-knowledge triangular programme. The co-operation processes enable countries to be more creative and innovative in response to the current COVID-19 crisis.

Building an ecosystem for development cooperation agencies and building institutional capacities had enabled all to continue to work towards strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation, which showed how the countries of the South could benefit from one another regardless of capabilities and that human resources remain the most important factor to conduct any South-South cooperation programme. In addition, other factors such as economic development and education should not be overlooked during the pandemic to achieve SDGs, and a holistic perspective is required to overcome the pandemic. Cooperation between the public and private sectors, despite emergency situations within the framework of holistic and joint efforts, was considered as an indispensable tool to advance the achievement of the SDGs. Finally, South-South cooperation should not be considered to replace North-South cooperation, and both should be strengthened and complement each other to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Case 4. Turkey

Mr. Rahman Nurdun, Vice-President, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)

The COVID-19 crisis required that it be approached with a global and coherent policy since no single country could tackle it alone. Since the beginning of the pandemic, TIKA had implemented 200 COVID-19-related projects in 72 countries. The pandemic had demonstrated how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had been essential to share experiences, to respond to the economic and social crises, and to find a way for countries to recover from the pandemic while making progress in advancing the achievement of the SDGs. To respond to the question of what kind of roles international and regional development institutions and think tanks could play, especially through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, cooperation among countries of the South cannot substitute for actions that are required by the wider international community but they can bring a degree of support with recovery. In addition, they can provide a blueprint for international cooperation necessary to recover better than from previous crises.

Three clear objectives were noted as indispensable to overcome the current crisis within the framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation:

- to scale up financial resources with the aim to enhance policy space and build resilience;
- to widely share knowledge, particularly with the most vulnerable Southern countries; and
- to strengthen value chains and service industries and support small and medium-sized enterprises in the post-pandemic era. It is essential to maintain resilience for future pandemics.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Southern countries need to strengthen strategic partnership and build solidarity around reforms to build a multilateral architecture based on inclusive global governance. Across the world, every country has its own unique experience of the pandemic. The experience of developing countries could be different from that of developed countries, and it could be more suitable for other developing countries. Solutions produced to overcome the pandemic cover not only the pandemic-related problems but also other global challenges such as climate change, poverty, hunger, and regional and global conflicts.

Case 5. Azerbaijan

Ms. Aliya Agazadeh, Deputy Director, Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA)

International development and cooperation are particularly important. Azerbaijan had developed key actions such as the special session on the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic organized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2020 under the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan as part of his chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement.

International development cooperation is an indispensable tool to overcome the current COVID-19 crisis, to reduce its negative effects and to prevent future pandemics. In that regard, donor countries needed to join efforts to avoid the spread of the pandemic as well as to ensure enough vaccination levels for the poorest countries. Azerbaijan had provided assistance to 33 countries and three international organizations to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, it had provided humanitarian, financial and technical assistance to about 120 foreign countries, and more than 3 million people had benefited from that assistance.

Case 6. Norway

Mr. Helge Espe, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec)

Norec, a technical agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is mandated to support, finance and oversee the mutual exchange of personnel between institutions, organizations and businesses in Norway and the Global South. The personnel exchanges take place within the framework of partnerships to support partners to exchange knowledge, experiences and competencies. In an average normal year, Norec facilitates the sending of 600 new experts recruited from 25 countries of the Global South as well as Norway. The BAPA+40 outcome document recognizes personnel exchange as an important dimension of South-South and triangular cooperation. The pandemic had prevented the possibility of implementing face-to-face exchange missions of personnel. Nevertheless, Norec had strengthened virtual exchanges and online courses and had increased research and policy development to adapt to the COVID-19 context.

Norec regularly collects data about the various benefits, shortcomings and overall effectiveness of South-South personnel exchange as compared to other modalities. Partnerships are built on the notion that all parties have something to share and to learn and contribute to the common good. After the COVID-19 outbreak happened in March 2020, many personnel exchanges were stopped but it was interesting to see that the vast majority of Southern personnel that Norec supported remained on their jobs and continued to share and exchange competencies both in Norway and Southern countries. Thus, it was found that South-South exchange was a robust, sustainable and

effective mode even in the crisis situation, and Norec would further strengthen support to South-South personnel exchange. Webinars were a great tool but the add-on experiences of direct interaction and deeper learning that could create trustful partnership were missing.

Case 7. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Ms. Sara Hamouda, SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert, APRM

The African health-care sector faced four critical challenges:

Africa's limited contribution to the global health-care and pharmaceutical industry. Most of Africa's medical supplies are procured outside the continent. Acceleration of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, a flagship project of Agenda 2063, would be needed.

The lack of investment in human resources and the low level of national expenditures on health-care services and inclusive insurance systems, research and development affect the COVID-19 medium- and long-term recovery approaches.

Data collection on health care and SDG 3 remains a significant challenge to address the COVID-19 spread and transmission in Africa.

Reporting on SDG 3 and the implementation of disaster risk frameworks in Africa is still insufficiently carried out by many African countries.

Some APRM priorities for 2021 would be implementing the common African continental strategy on a COVID-19 framework; strengthening health systems and mobilizing resources; preparing a continental capacity-building training course for African national executives on how to operationalize resilience and report on resilience indicators; strengthening partnerships with South-South cooperation players; creating a regional platform for the continent to build synergies in South-South cooperation; generating ideas for resource mobilization; diffusing knowledge about South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation among African youth and experts; and assisting the African Union in monitoring and evaluating South-South cooperation initiatives in Africa.

Furthermore, holistic approaches across the continent would be essential to implement BAPA+40 recommendations, and Africa needs to have its own voice on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. To advance towards the achievement of that purpose, a regional forum for Africa on South-South and triangular cooperation would be organized at the end of 2021.

Question-and-answer Session

Ms. Andrea Victoria Queruz, Responsible for African Matters, South-South Directorate, APC- Colombia, asked how African international cooperation agencies work with other international cooperation agencies outside Africa and whether they develop partnerships with Latin American institutions.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Methqal, AMCI, said that Morocco works on building partnerships with cooperation agencies in Latin America. In that regard, AMCI had signed an agreement with APC-Colombia in April 2020. The agreement initiated bilateral cooperation between both countries to develop triangular cooperation programme and capacity-development activities. AMCI had also been developing a roadmap of cooperation with other Latin American and the Caribbean countries in the areas of health, agriculture, fisheries and capacity development.

Ms. Sara Hamouda, APRM, noted that APRM would try to play a holistic role to link its member States and other regional blocks on other continents.

Mr. François Ekoko, Regional Chief for Africa, UNOSSC, stressed that there would be three levels of interaction between Africa and Latin America:

- the national level dealt with by national cooperation agencies;
- the more centralized level through the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). For instance, the Africa-South America Summit was organized by the AUC, and the first Summit was held in 2006; and
- the institutional level developed by the African Union institutions, e.g., APRM and the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-DA-NEPAD).

H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi, PICA, explained that each country and organization had its own agenda and commitment to show more involvement in implementing collective agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, setting priorities and joint agendas was needed, and that should be documented and made available to other Southern countries. In that regard, evaluation and assessment of South-South and triangular cooperation were essential. The Global South was in need of more human and financial resources to advance towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Patrice Camara, Director, Guinean Agency for Technical Cooperation, remarked that Guinea gives much priority to South-South cooperation and that it had worked on joint activities with Morocco. The availability of vaccines needed to be prioritized internationally to overcome the pandemic as soon as possible.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, thanking APC-Colombia for its question, stated that one of the main goals of the DG Forum is to connect the different actors of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in various regions and initiate partnerships to find solutions towards the achievement of SDGs.

Mr. Rahman Nurdun, TIKA, said that TIKA had partnerships with Chile, Colombia, Mexico and other Latin American countries and was ready to share experiences with other countries and suggestions for cooperation. During the peak of the pandemic, TIKA had implemented around 200 projects in 72 countries. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, it would be indispensable to continue implementing projects in as normal a way as possible since it was not certain how long the COVID-19 pandemic would last and the most vulnerable countries needed to be supported.

Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, IsDB, asked what would need to be improved or changed in order to increase the effectiveness of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi, PICA, explained that it was necessary for cooperation agencies to come up with plans to perform in the coming months, formulating strategies for South-South cooperation. Also, opening direct channels of coordination and communication with specialized bodies and agencies to facilitate contacts was a priority.

Ms. Sara Hamouda, APRM, stated that improving coordination and institutional mechanisms at the regional level to harmonize efforts and to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems to track South-South and triangular cooperation was required. Also, the fragmentation of the initiatives on South-South cooperation across the continent was an issue of concern. Finally, cooperation should be improved. A DG Forum at the regional level would be needed to connect ideas among various stakeholders.

Mr. Rahman Nurdun, TIKA, remarked that joint efforts with the donors were indispensable to avoid duplications of projects in the achievement of the different goals of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

Ms. Aliya Agazadeh, AIDA, highlighted the importance of thinking about how cooperation agencies could join efforts to help one another and overcome the pandemic as soon as possible. In that regard, a platform such as the DG Forum was essential.

Mr. Helge Espe, Norec, noted that maintaining the budgets after the pandemic and a global common narrative were needed to advance towards common actions on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, pointed out that the current Forum was considered as a key opportunity to increase partnerships and improve the effectiveness of processes and policies. As many speakers pointed out, no single country would be able to overcome the current challenges individually, so strengthening and increasing partnerships and cooperation were indispensable. Efficient coordination with civil society organizations was also needed for a better understanding of the challenges in the countries and for facilitating the access of the communities to the vaccines.

Day 3,
19 March 2021

Breakout Session Reports and Concluding Session

The Future of Development Cooperation:
Insights into What to Expect in the Medium to Long Term
and How South-South and Triangular Cooperation Should Be
Positioned in the New Decade of Action

MODERATOR

- **Mr. Tarik Iziraren**, Deputy Director, Policy and Strategic Partnership, UNOSSC

SPEAKERS

Breakout Session for Asia

- **Moderator: Ms. Nozomi Iwama**, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Development, JICA

Breakout Session for Africa, the Middle East and Europe

- **Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken**, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, IsDB

Breakout Session for the Americas

- **Moderator: Mr. Enrique Oviedo**, Political Affairs Officer, Commission Secretariat, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The three breakout-session moderators shared with the audience the main points that had been highlighted in their respective sessions. **Ms. Nozomi Iwama** reported the main conclusions from the breakout session for Asia. **Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken** outlined the major points from the breakout session for Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and **Mr. Enrique Oviedo** pointed out the most relevant questions that had been posed during the breakout session for the Americas.

Ms. Nozomi Iwama, JICA, reported that the breakout session for Asia had addressed several complex issues that countries were facing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as health-care services, repatriation of citizens, the economy, tourism, science, education and technology. It was encouraging to see how countries had supported one another at the regional and global levels in those difficult circumstances. Moreover, the issue of ensuring equitable access to vaccines had also been a key theme in the discussions.

Beyond the immediate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following issues had been particularly emphasized:

- the strengthening of digitalization capacities, since advancing towards closing the digital gap is indispensable to leaving no one behind;
- the significant roles of regional and multilateral organizations, since it is necessary to facilitate and increase consultations to obtain knowledge, capacities in technologies, innovation and resources for development cooperation. The 2020 DG Forum, the Asia and the Pacific Regional DG Forum and other platforms provided by different organizations were important channels for that; and
- the importance of trade facilitation, supporting SMEs, and mobilizing the private sector, since Asian regions are closely connected through supply chains.

Session participants had affirmed that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had more crucial roles in times of crisis, which would bring limited fiscal space and resources but also an opportunity for innovative solutions, while an effective method of measuring South-South and triangular cooperation remained as a challenge. South-South and triangular cooperation would be valuable not only to fill the financial and technical gaps and resolve issues but also to concretize solidarity, partnerships and multilateralism.

Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, IsDB, noted that for the future of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, it would be necessary to think about required solutions to current challenges, the scope of exchanges and the existing types of financing to achieve internationally agreed goals since they would enable countries to share solutions in a long-term vision focusing on the improvement of resilience for disaster preparedness, among other issues. In relation to financing, it would be necessary to think about scaling up available resources and developing new ways to finance South-South cooperation. IsDB had been exploring the use of the concept of “endowment funds” (waqf in Islamic finance) to improve the financing resources for South-South cooperation. The idea would be to establish endowments whose proceeds would be earmarked to fund exchanges in South-South cooperation. Such approaches would provide a win-win scenario for investors as well as beneficiaries, since the core investments would be preserved through endowments, while investment returns would be used productively for end beneficiaries of South-South cooperation. IsDB had already had extensive experience in using that model for poverty alleviation and for development projects through its Awqaf Properties Investment Fund (APIF), and there were notable success stories across the world. Such experiences could be leveraged in the area of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as well.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, stressed that while solutions should be adapted to the local contexts, it would also be imperative to join efforts globally with the aim of finding answers to the challenges that development faces. With respect to the idea proposed by Mr. Diken in relation to addressing the issue of financing through foundations, Mr. Iziraren highlighted that UNOSSC would agree to explore that issue.

Mr. Danny Rahdiansyah, Counsellor, Directorate of Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, emphasized that the digital gap would be a crucial factor in overcoming the current challenges owing to the lack of digital and technological tools specifically in developing countries including the least developed ones. Moreover, not all capacity-building programmes could be adapted and implemented through online platforms, since they required real practice on the ground. However, it was necessary to formulate and develop more adaptable capacity-building programmes that could be effectively implemented through on-line platforms in the medium term.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, noted that the COVID-19 crisis had widened the pre-pandemic digital gap and that the ones who were more digitally empowered were now better prepared to address the health, social and economic consequences of the pandemic. In sum, the impacts of the pandemic had been more intense in the societies that suffered from the digital gap. Closing the digital gap should be one of the priorities for the international community. Mrs. Rafedah Abd Aziz, Undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, expressed the continuous commitment of Malaysia to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation and solidarity with other Southern countries. Malaysia supported countries in multilateral processes, particularly in the United Nations system. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were unique tools to push forward the 2030 Agenda. With that aim in view, it would be necessary to continue supporting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to build a world better than it had been before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC, explained that the need to close the digital gap in the Global South had been a central theme of the discussion during all sessions. The conversation related to the views, experiences and lessons learned that had been shared during the sessions would continue beyond the twelfth DG Forum.

Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Nozomi Iwama**, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, JICA
- **Mr. Riad Ragueb**, Acting Director, IsDB
- **Mr. Tarik iziraren**, Deputy Director, Policy and Strategic Partnership, UNOSSC

Ms. Nozomi Iwama, JICA

The discussions, ideas and experiences on South-South and triangular cooperation shared by the panellists and participants during the current DG Forum would support the implementation of the BAPA+40 recommendations and the achievement of countries' social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In sum, all countries and institutions would need to join efforts to build new knowledge and innovative solutions to ensure that people live with dignity and can overcome the pandemic as soon as possible based on solidarity, regional cooperation, and innovative solutions through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Riad Ragueb, IsDB

All participants had shared examples of solidarity despite the challenges that they faced. That would lead to the conclusion that the spirit of solidarity at the core of South-South cooperation continues unabated.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed weaknesses in various areas, the pandemic had also demonstrated that development cooperation practitioners with other actors could join forces to develop key solutions to overcome severe crises. As a key example, the design and production of respirators at a low cost were highlighted.

The solutions to overcome the current challenges exist in the Global South, and they need to be shared extensively through sustainable approaches in order to build the resilience that is required, particularly in the South, to withstand unexpected crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Ragueb reiterated the IsDB commitment to promote South-South and triangular cooperation based on solid partnerships and effective mechanisms in order to achieve sustainable development results in its member countries as well as other countries of the South.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC

A key lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that South-South cooperation clearly works. It is indispensable to stay connected to find solutions to the current challenges. As an illustrative example, several countries of the South are at the forefront of the production and distribution of vaccines to other countries of the South. Moreover, such cooperation would be needed to advance towards global access to digital technologies since those tools enable the finding of solutions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The difficulties that the issue of financing poses to achieve SDGs had also been raised as a key topic during the DG Forum. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and other funds might be used to promote the accomplishment of the SDGs.

Furthermore, the significance of public-private partnerships to achieve the SDGs had also been highlighted. During the pandemic, the partnerships had worked for the benefit of the communities, and clear evidence of that affirmation is the vaccine itself. Without those public-private partnerships, the vaccine would have arrived much later.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation promote multilateralism, which is even more important in the context of the current COVID-19 crisis because not a single country could overcome that pandemic alone. Accordingly, it is imperative to join efforts and to strengthen partnerships and cooperation. UNOSSC plays an important role as a connector and facilitator so that countries can find ways to progress through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Annex I. Agenda

**TWELFTH HIGH-LEVEL FORUM OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

(DG FORUM)

17-19 MARCH 2021

Overall Moderator: Mr. Tarik Iziraren, UNOSSC

DAY 1, 17 MARCH 2021

TIME (EST)	SESSION DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS / PANELLIST
7:00 - 7:30	Welcoming Remarks and Setting the Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i., United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) • Mr. Naoki Ando, Director General, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) • Mr. Riad Ragueb, Acting Director, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
07:30 - 8:30	<p>SESSION 1 Taking Stock of Achievements for South-South and Triangular Cooperation Since BAPA+40: How Far Are We in Achieving the Goals Set in the Outcome Document?</p> <p>MODERATOR: Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks from the host country of BAPA+40, Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina • Ms. Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO) • Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (South-South and Triangular Cooperation), Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division, External Relations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) <p style="text-align: center;">INTERACTIVE SESSION</p>

8:30 - 9:30	<p>SESSION 2 Trends, Opportunities and Challenges Posed by the COVID-19 Crisis for South-South and Triangular Cooperation</p> <p>MODERATOR: Mr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab, Global Policy Adviser, Effective Development Cooperation, Effectiveness Group, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • Ms. Ana Fernandes, Head, Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) • Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) • Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) <p>INTERACTIVE SESSION</p>
10:30 - 12:30	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION FOR THE AMERICAS</p> <p>MODERATOR: Mr. Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer, Commission Secretariat, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls, Director General, Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (APC-Colombia) • Ms. Maria Elena Alcaraz, Coordinator of International Development Forums, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), Mexico • Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina • Mr. Marcio Correa, Senior Analyst, Multilateral Technical Cooperation, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), Brazil <p>INTERACTIVE SESSION</p>
DAY 2, 18 MARCH 2021		
TIME (EST)	SESSION DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS / PANELLIST
1:00 - 3:00	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION FOR ASIA</p> <p>MODERATOR: Ms. Nozomi Iwama, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, JICA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Ambassador, Additional Secretary, Development Partnership Administration, Ministry of External Affairs, India • H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah, Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia • Mr. Tian Lin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), China • Ms. Elenore Kang, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Programmes, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore • Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra, Programme Officer, Capacity Development and Partnerships Section, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <p>INTERACTIVE SESSION</p>

8:30 - 9:30	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION FOR AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE</p> <p>MODERATOR: Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, IsDB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khalil, Ambassador, Secretary-General, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), Egypt • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Methqal, Ambassador, Director General, Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI), Morocco • H.E. Mr. Imad Zuhairi, Ambassador, Director General, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), State of Palestine • Mr. Rahman Nurdun, Vice-President, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Turkey • Ms. Aliya Agazadeh, Deputy Director, Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA), Azerbaijan • Mr. Helge Espe, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec), Norway • Ms. Sara Hamouda, SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) <p>INTERACTIVE SESSION</p>
DAY 3, 19 MARCH 2021		
TIME (EST)	SESSION DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS / PANELLIST
7:00 - 8:30	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS AND CONCLUDING</p> <p>SESSION: The Future of Development Cooperation: Insights on What to Expect in the Medium to Long Term and How South-South and Triangular Cooperation Should Be Positioned in the New Decade of Action</p>	All participants
	<p>MODERATOR: Tarik iziraren, Deputy Director, UNOSSC</p>	
8:30 - 9:00	CLOSING REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i., UNOSSC • Ms. Nozomi Iwama, Senior Director and Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, JICA • Mr. Riad Ragueb, Acting Director, IsDB

Annex II. Recommendations

The twelfth High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) was jointly held by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from 17 to 19 March 2021.

In 2021, sessions of the DG Forum were organized at a challenging time when the international community was still coping with the ongoing pandemic. The Forum provided an opportunity to reflect on and review the implementation of the recommendations in the BAPA+40 outcome document as well as trends, opportunities and challenges for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several factors including fostering partnerships between Member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and other stakeholders were considered as key elements in boosting and promoting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

The participants at the DG Forum highlighted the following:

1. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), as the focal point for the promotion and coordination of South-South cooperation at the global and United Nations system-wide levels, plays a key role in facilitating the implementation of the BAPA+40 recommendations and those contained in other relevant major outcome documents.
2. The DG Forum is an important advocacy tool in encouraging Southern countries and other stakeholders to seek cooperation opportunities and a systematic engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships involving the dedicated national institutions. It also serves as a significant global platform for exchanging experiences and views on the roles and impact of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation regarding sustainable development.
3. Information on the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and its action plan was welcomed. The Directors General requested that they be updated on the implementation of the strategy in the annual meetings of the DG Forum to promote coherence in areas/activities where both the national governments and the United Nations system are involved.
4. Given the negative socioeconomic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented damage to the global economy, which is unravelling the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in many countries of the South, countries could consider the readjustment of priorities in the decade of action for sustainable development in alignment with their needs.
5. More efforts are needed nationally and internationally not only to strengthen the health-care systems of the Member States in facing crises such as COVID-19 but also in building capacities in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to confront emerging issues and challenges with recovery and resilience plans, which should be youth-inclusive and gender-balanced.
6. Efforts of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to provide appropriate technical assistance through South-South cooperation in their respective areas of competence are essential for the national institutions to deal actively with the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. The unprecedented impact of the pandemic on the global economy is a daunting challenge that requires stronger partnerships among all stakeholders. Given the fact that the most vulnerable communities live in the Global South, participants recognized the importance of further strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to build resilient societies.

8. Further promotion of public-private partnerships to respond to the global pandemic and to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda was underscored. Enabling policies and regulations by the South and the North are needed for increasing the participation of the private sector in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation activities.
9. The digital economy and digital transformation are impacting the Global South and its South-South cooperation undertakings in a fast-changing world. The ways in which development practitioners are cooperating and implementing their projects will change fundamentally as a result of the advent of the digital economy.
10. With the acceleration of the digital revolution and the progress achieved in some Southern countries, the Directors General and their institutions are encouraged to engage increasingly in nurturing partnerships and facilitating development cooperation in areas of information and communications technology (ICT) to ensure that no one is left behind.
11. Strengthened institutional arrangements for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels are key for the promotion of coordinated, coherent and demand-driven South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation programmes, initiatives and activities for sustainable development. The pandemic, during which more enhanced, agile and effective cooperation is needed, has projected a brighter light on that particular need for enhanced institutional arrangements for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
12. The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) shared updates on the operationalization of the framework on national ecosystems for South-South and triangular cooperation, which had been developed together with the South Centre as a concrete step towards achieving the recommendations of the BAPA+40 outcome document.
13. Support is needed from all stakeholders for the strengthening of national ecosystems for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the South, considering existing challenges. It is not only the countries of the South that need to develop their national ecosystems but also countries of the North, which have some elements of the national ecosystem but are not necessarily equipped with all the pillars and tools necessary for comprehensive, effective engagement in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
14. Mapping experiences and expertise from Member States on the national institutionalization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and how to engage broader partners is also significant. There is a need to make a collection of lessons learned regarding the institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation in specific pilot countries and the mapping of best experiences.
15. Improved data collection and reporting on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation at the national and regional levels on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national capacities are useful to learn lessons, identify opportunities for continuous improvement, and follow up more effectively on the implementation of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation interventions for sustainable development.
16. Participants discussed the issues of measuring impacts of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and the need for sustainable financing of South-South cooperation, including funding that could respond to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
17. The importance of further knowledge-sharing, advocacy and communications in terms of reporting on results, challenges and impact was also highlighted.
18. Triangular cooperation is a modality that combines diverse resources and capacities and responds to requests and priorities of developing countries to achieve the SDGs. Its contributions to sustainable development must be leveraged.

19. Continuous efforts are important to enhance the development effectiveness of triangular cooperation and maximize its impact for the achievement of the SDGs in accordance with the national development priorities and strategies of the countries of the South and in all circumstances. The efforts with regard to the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation had been appreciated, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-operation can serve as an important guide in that endeavour.
20. Also noteworthy is the inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach of South-South and triangular cooperation that involves a growing number of diverse actors, with the aim to mobilize collective action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
21. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, as the main United Nations policy-making body for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, is an appropriate platform that should be leveraged by all countries, South-South cooperation practitioners and other stakeholders to increase their engagement in building specifically designed policy recommendations on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
22. Scaling up the use of the existing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation match-making platforms and diversifying them to provide various outlets for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation stakeholders across the Member States where different partners could present projects and seek partnerships for their implementation are needed.
23. The importance of promoting the sharing of knowledge and experiences for both the South and the North to advance South-South and triangular cooperation and to undertake pragmatic follow-up on BAPA+40 was highlighted.
24. The co-organizers of the DG Forum and interested participants are encouraged to start initiatives and activities for the implementation of the recommendations of the eleventh and twelfth DG Forums within the overall ambit of the outcome document of BAPA+40. The next DG Forum will provide an opportunity to report on the implementation of those activities and for peer-to-peer learning from the experiences of participants.

III. List of Participants²

² Within countries and organizations, names are listed in alphabetical order.

COUNTRIES				
#	COUNTRY	NAME	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	OFFICIAL TITLE AND DEPARTMENT
1	ARGENTINA	Ms. Julieta Aizcorbe	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship	General Directorate for International Cooperation
2	ARGENTINA	Mr. Juan Ignacio Roccatagliata	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship	Director of Multilateral Cooperation, General Directorate for International Cooperation
3	ARGENTINA	Mr. Leandro Cosentino	Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations	Third Secretary
4	AZERBAIJAN	Ms. Aliya Aghazada	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Deputy Director, Azerbaijan International Development Agency
5	AZERBAIJAN	Mr. Etibar Karimov	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Head of Unit, Azerbaijan International Development Agency
6	BRAZIL	Mr. Marcio Correa	Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)	Senior Analyst, Multilateral Technical Cooperation
7	BRAZIL	Ms. Denise Leamy	ABC	Project Analyst
8	CAMEROON	Mr. Mohamadou Awal	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development	Assistant Research Officer
9	CANADA	Ms. Anar Mamdani	Global Affairs Canada	Director, International Assistance Relations
10	CANADA	Ms. Suraiya Naher	Global Affairs Canada	Deputy Director, International Assistance Relations
11	CANADA	Ms. Joanie Turcot	Global Affairs Canada	Planning Analyst, International Assistance Relations, Strategic Policy Branch
12	CHINA	Mr. Tian Lin	China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)	Director General
13	CHINA	Ms. Jia Li	Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations	First Secretary
14	COLOMBIA	Ms. Winy Anaya	Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (APC-Colombia)	Communications Adviser

III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

15	COLOMBIA	Ms. Liliana Castellanos	APC-Colombia	Latin American Countries Officer, South-South Cooperation Directorate
16	COLOMBIA	Ms. Myriam Escallón	APC-Colombia	Officer, South-South Cooperation Directorate
17	COLOMBIA	Ms. Marlen Espitia	APC-Colombia	Specialized Professional
18	COLOMBIA	Ms. Sofia Linares	APC-Colombia	Bilateral Cooperation Officer, ODA Directorate
19	COLOMBIA	Mrs. Angela Ospina de Nicholls	APC-Colombia	General Director
20	COLOMBIA	Ms. Manuela Parejas	APC-Colombia	Communications Officer
21	COLOMBIA	Ms. Catalina Quintero	APC-Colombia	Director for South-South Cooperation
22	COLOMBIA	Mr. Luis Roa	APC-Colombia	Responsible for Triangular Cooperation
23	COLOMBIA	Ms. Martha Rocha	APC-Colombia	Public Officer, South-South Cooperation Directorate
24	COLOMBIA	Mr. Jose Carlos Suarez	APC-Colombia	Southeast Asia Officer, South-South Cooperation Directorate
25	COLOMBIA	Mrs. Andrea Victoria Queruz Vanegas	APC-Colombia	Responsible for African Matters, South-South Cooperation Directorate
26	COLOMBIA	Ms. Lina Vega	APC-Colombia	Multilateral Cooperation Coordinator, ODA Directorate
27	COLOMBIA	Ms. Mariacamila Hernandez	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	South-South and Triangular Cooperation Officer
28	COLOMBIA	Ms. Lina Marcela Puentes	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Adviser, Directorate of International Cooperation, Coordination of South-South and Triangular Cooperation
29	COLOMBIA	Mr. Jaime Gnecco	Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations	Minister Counsellor

30	COMOROS	N/A	Comoros Agency for International Cooperation (ACCI)	N/A
31	COSTA RICA	Ms. Leticia Zamora	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship	Foreign Service Officer
32	DJIBOUTI	Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Abro	APC-Colom Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Deputy Director, Social and Cultural Department
33	EGYPT	Mr. Hassan Elnashar	Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)	Counsellor
34	EGYPT	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khalil	EAPD	Ambassador, Secretary-General
35	EGYPT	Ms. Hoda Elenguebawy	Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations	Second Secretary
36	GUINEA	Mr. Patrice Camara	Guinean Agency for Technical Cooperation	Director
37	INDIA	Mr. Anoop Dhingra	Ministry of External Affairs	Director
38	INDIA	H.E. Mr. Akhilesh Mishra	Ministry of External Affairs	Additional Secretary, Development Partnership Administration
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III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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