

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
Follow up to Buenos Aires Plan of Action+40: From Commitment to Action

12 september 2019 / 10:00 am – 12:00 m
Conference Room 6, UN Secretariat Building

Good Morning,

All protocols observed or,

- Mr. **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary General,
- Ms. **Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, President of the 73rd UN General Assembly,
- Mr. **Jorge Chediek**, Director and Envoy of the Secretary General on South-South Cooperation,
- Ambassador **Adonia Ayebare**, Permanent Representative of Uganda, President of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation
- Mr. **Achim Steiner**, Administrator of the UNDP
- Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of my Government, it is an honor and a big pleasure to be here today celebrating this very special ***United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation***.

At the outset, let me thank the office of the **United Nations for South-South Cooperation**, the Government of **Argentina** and other partners, for organizing this significant event to commemorate the 41 years of the adoption of the ***Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (well known as BAPA)***, a key action frame for this kind of cooperation.

In this four decades, the South-South Cooperation has been consolidated as a modality that allows share of **knowledge, abilities, experiences** and **resources** between countries with similar challenges and characteristics. This proximity between their members makes possible the generation of learning processes to find joint solutions between pair countries in shorter time, with minor costs and a sustainable and pertinent criteria.

Even though we are aware of the **challenges** that South-South and Triangular Cooperation faces, for **Colombia** these are modalities that allows to advance for the creation and enforcement of national and local capacities through sustainable projects aligned with the SDG's and national priorities.

It is worthy to mention that the ***Second High Level Conference of the United Nations for South-South Cooperation*** in Argentina last march, was a meeting which allowed to make a revision of the role of this modality in the current international context, to face the implementation of the ***2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development***.

Thus, in the *Outcome Document*, countries renewed their commitment to promote South-South Cooperation and established a series of actions to strengthen and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, I would like to reiterate that for Colombia it is a priority that we advance in the ***measurement of South-South Cooperation***, to value knowledge and its transfer beyond their direct and indirect costs.

I take also this opportunity to highlight and thank the work of the ***United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation***, in its capacity of knowledge center of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Likewise, to renew our country's commitment to continue participating actively in the *Bureau of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation*.

Finally, Colombia would like to encourage Member States, United Nations entities, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders of the United Nations system, to advance in the implementation of the actions agreed in the ***Outcome Document of BAPA + 40***, and reiterates its willingness to promote initiatives that strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Thank you.