



Colombian Virtual Side Event at the 2020 High Level Political Forum “Global South Dialogues: Science and Innovation for a Post-COVID Sustainable Development”

Opening Remarks

Ambassador Guillermo Fernández de Soto
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations
New York, July 13th, 2020, (8:00 – 9:00 am)

3 MINUTES

- Good morning, Excellencies, colleagues, friends.
- It is my pleasure to welcome you today to this Colombian Virtual Side Event on “Science and Innovation for a Post-COVID Sustainable Development”.
- I would like to express my gratitude to the General Director of the Colombian Presidential International Cooperation Agency, Angela Ospina, and to the UN Special Envoy and Director of the Office for South – South Cooperation, Jorge Chediek, for joining forces once again this year.
- I extend my appreciation to our distinguished panelists from Latin America, Africa and Asia.
- We would like to start recalling the importance of the Outcome Document of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires in March 2019.
- It encourages the development and technology transfer in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals.



- This side event aims precisely to explore how South – South and Triangular Cooperation contributes to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the global south, in the post-COVID-19 era.
- The achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on the close collaboration between our countries without distinction.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought several challenges for the global community and magnified the importance of access to connectivity and digital tools more than ever.
- This context has exposed the pre-existing deep inequalities, especially for the most vulnerable. Access to the internet is one of the best examples.
- However, we have seen an expansion in the development of new digital business models. Those need to be supported in order to achieve a sustainable recovery.
- Cooperation allows us to identify common challenges and best practices. Also, to seek solutions and promote the construction of work agendas.
- This includes the challenge to build “green societies” for the future of the next generations. This is a priority for Colombia as a biodiverse country.
- Also, we have been strengthening the Creative Economy, also known as “Orange Economy”, which has given us a pathway for promoting innovation, research, and entrepreneurship.



- My country is committed to keep working through the available cooperation modalities to adopt and promote better public policies on new emerging technologies and digital transformation.
- To conclude, I would like to emphasize the following three messages:
 1. Digital cooperation is key to boost sustainable development, economic growth, and social welfare.
 2. Digital platforms can play an essential role in identifying cooperation opportunities to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the pandemic and move towards the achievement of the SDGs.
 3. This is our “Decade of Action” and our countries must reiterate the commitment with the Agenda 2030.
- I look forward to hearing about your experiences in how Science, Technology, and Innovation can help mitigate the effects of the crisis and provide creative solutions.
- Thank you.