

Annex 1

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. The Committee on South-South Cooperation met as scheduled on 7 May 2014 during the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The following countries were appointed to serve as presiding officers of the Committee:

Chair: Peru

Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

2. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on technical cooperation activities.
3. Panel: International cooperation for equality.
4. Report on follow-up to the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation during the period 2012-2013.
5. Adoption of resolutions.

3. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, having welcomed the country representatives and donors, reflected on the dynamics of cooperation in general and of South-South cooperation in particular, and the role that ECLAC played in that field. The traditional North-South cooperation paradigm had lost currency owing to the heterogeneity of the region, which included high-, middle- and low-income countries, and she referred also to the middle-income trap. In the developed world there was a mistaken belief that Latin America and the Caribbean no longer required cooperation. She stressed that there was no one-size-fits-all formula for cooperation and that the region's cooperation needs were not limited to economic resources. In conclusion, she emphasized that the region should put forward its own positions with a view to helping set the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC presented the report on technical cooperation activities, which explored the characteristics of South-South cooperation and of the multilateral assistance channelled through the United Nations. The cooperation provided by ECLAC took many different forms: supporting regional integration, capacity-building, direct advisory services, exchange of experiences and strengthening networks. He referred to the Commission's various partners in cooperation and the resources mobilized to carry out the programme of technical cooperation, and made a brief reflection on the need for international cooperation to be focused on pursuing equality. Lastly, he presented an approach put forward by the Commission based on an assessment of structural gaps as an alternative to GDP per capita as the criterion for allocating official development assistance and guiding technical cooperation for the development of the region.

5. During the statements that followed, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that a paradigm shift that was taking place in South-South cooperation. The representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) presented the experience of Japan in technical cooperation, particularly in the area of triangular cooperation. The representative of El Salvador invited the Commission to continue its work on economic impacts and costs of climate change in the region, and

to analyse the support to the region in terms of dialogues and exchanges on taxation and development within the framework of South-South cooperation.

6. The panel on international cooperation for equality was moderated by Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The speakers in group 1 were: Hege Araldsen, Ambassador of Norway in Chile; Benedicte Bull, Professor at the University of Oslo; Jean-Paul Joulia, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes for Latin America and Caribbean of the European Commission; and Christian Abstein, Cooperation Adviser of the Embassy of Germany in Peru.

7. The participants stressed the role of cooperation in promoting the economic, environmental and socially responsible management of natural resources, the sustainable use of those resources and energy efficiency; the improvement of fiscal instruments to increase revenues and expand social protection; the continuous reduction of inequality; the coordination of initiatives among all actors involved in international cooperation and South-South cooperation; and the establishment of new strategic alliances to advance inclusive development in the region.

8. The speakers in group 2 were: Moni Pizani, Regional Director for Latin America of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Michel Schlaifer, Regional Cooperation Adviser of France; Inmaculada Zamora, Coordinator of the EUROsociAL programme; and Tarcila Rivera, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru.

9. The speakers emphasized the need to strive for profound social and structural changes in order to make gender equality a reality; for more sustainable production and consumption patterns; and for the strengthening of collective governance to reduce imbalances. They insisted that cooperation should aim at promoting policy changes to advance equity and social cohesion, with mutual support between countries in the region, particularly in key areas such as improving the conditions of education, health and public participation of indigenous peoples.

10. Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Financing for Development Division of ECLAC, made some final comments on the panel and presented the report on the study on structural gaps in Costa Rica. He recommended developing alternative indicators to GDP as a means of guiding cooperation mechanisms aimed at reducing gaps. He spoke on the experience of Costa Rica, whose ministries of planning and foreign affairs were identifying gaps with technical and methodological support from the Commission in order to shape public policy. He concluded by saying that the goal was to apply the experience to other countries in the region in order to identify areas of common interest that could be included on the cooperation agenda.

11. When the floor was opened for comments, the representative of Argentina said that South-South cooperation was crucial for reducing economic and social asymmetries in the region. The representative of Spain argued that mainstreaming and the adoption of a specific approach to ensure gender equality should be top priorities of cooperation. The representative of Mexico agreed with the definition of alternative indicators, such as the multidimensional poverty index, while the representative of Guyana said that statistics were needed to guide policies to support the economic empowerment of women and the education and training of men to tackle crime and marginalization. The representative of Brazil stressed that GDP growth did not result in an automatic improvement in people's living conditions and that it was essential to adopt an approach to economic development that was based on inclusion. The representative of Peru requested more information on Costa Rica's experiences in determining structural gaps, with a view to identifying existing deficits more precisely and addressing them through South-South cooperation and in conjunction with international cooperation partners. Lastly, the representative of Panama said that the social economy was an effective means of combating inequality by promoting the development of the most disadvantaged sectors and called on ECLAC to foster that alternative model.

12. Under agenda item 4, on the Report on follow-up to the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation during the period 2012-2013, the ECLAC Secretariat presented the work carried out by the Presiding Officers between September 2012 and December 2013 in two areas, namely, the calculation of structural gaps and the design of indicators for measuring South-South cooperation. In that connection, the Statistical Conference of the Americas had created a task force to address the issue of indicators for measuring South-South cooperation and had already begun to study specific cases.

13. Fernando Prada, consultant from the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), presented a report on indicators of South-South cooperation, which contained some reflections on the case studies in which Peru had participated. After presenting the incentives and main features of South-South cooperation, he described the main patterns and explained how the criteria had been systematized. Those criteria included the interaction between actors, the implementation of projects and outputs, a comprehensive estimate of resources mobilized and invested, a results framework and potential replicability. He stressed the need to recognize the gaps in South-South cooperation.

14. The conclusions of the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation are reflected in resolution 688(XXXV).