

620(XXXI) SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering General Assembly resolution 58/220 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, in which the General Assembly endorsed the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its thirteenth session, including the reaffirmation of the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,¹ and decided to change the name of the Committee to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with no change in its mandate or in the scope of its activities,

Recalling that, in that resolution, the General Assembly urged developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South cooperation, as it contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and also urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider allocating more human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation activities,

Recalling also resolution 591(XXIX) of the Commission on cooperation among developing countries and regions,

Considering resolution 611(XXX) on cooperation among developing countries and regions, adopted by the Commission at its thirtieth session, in which the Commission decided to change the name of the Committee on Cooperation among Developing Countries and Regions to the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in accordance with the new mandates and approaches adopted by the General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that in this resolution the Executive Secretary of the Commission was requested to carry out a series of actions intended to strengthen South-South cooperation activities in Latin American and Caribbean countries,

1. Takes note of the report on the activities of the ECLAC system to support such cooperation that is included in the document entitled “Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2004-2005. Note by the secretariat”,² which has been reviewed at the present session of the Commission;

2. Acknowledges the high level of cooperation received from both member countries of the Commission and non-member countries, multilateral agencies, foundations, academic centres and non-governmental organizations, which have found in the Commission a strategic partner for implementing technical cooperation activities in general and South-South cooperation in particular, as was made clear in the debate that took place at the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation;

3. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation among the countries of the region as a means of helping to achieve their economic and social development objectives by means of comparative

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum, chap. I.

² LC/G.2306(SES.31/14).

studies, training seminars and workshops, activities for the exchange of experiences and good practices, the establishment of networks and development of methodologies based on the experience accumulated in all of the Commission's areas of expertise;

4. Underscores the need to expand support for the activities of the Governments of the region aimed at improving and expanding the use of mechanisms and modalities of South-South cooperation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, in priority areas of public economic and social development policy and in building national capacities for dealing with natural disasters in accordance with the priorities identified by the relevant countries;

5. Underscores also the need for the Commission to carry out studies to assess the various cooperation options for middle-income countries;

6. Stresses the need to arrange for greater financial participation on the part of countries, multilateral agencies and cooperating institutions in order to strengthen cooperation for development, as well as the need to introduce elements of South-South cooperation into the programmes and projects to be implemented using those resources;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to take measures, in accordance with the relevant mandates, to:

- (i) Continue to modernize and strengthen the Commission's strategic approaches with respect to South-South cooperation and all international development cooperation, including North-South and multilateral cooperation, in accordance with the mandates and approaches adopted by the General Assembly;
- (ii) Strengthen activities aimed at incorporating modalities of South-South cooperation into the various areas of the secretariat's programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009, especially with regard to the formulation and execution of technical cooperation projects financed with extrabudgetary resources from bilateral or multilateral sources of cooperation;
- (iii) Strengthen strategic partnerships with countries, cooperating institutions and international cooperation agencies, both within and outside the region, in order to increase North-South and South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;
- (iv) Intensify contacts and collaboration with the development agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and especially with the other regional commissions, in order to foster interregional cooperation in the context of globalization;
- (v) Identify the institutions that are in the best position to support the promotion of South-South cooperation activities, intensify the use of practices that have yielded successful results and systematize communication between donors and beneficiaries involved in this process.