

**Sixty-eighth session**

Agenda item 24 (b)

**Operational activities for development:  
South-South cooperation****Report of the Second Committee\****Rapporteur:* Ms. Juliet **Hay** (New Zealand)**I. Introduction**

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 24 (see [A/68/443](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 32nd and 41st meetings, on 6 November and 11 December 2013. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/68/SR.32](#) and 41).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/68/L.5](#)  
and [A/C.2/68/L.74](#)**

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Fiji, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" ([A/C.2/68/L.5](#)), which read:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Reaffirming its resolution [64/222](#) of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,*

*"Reaffirming also its resolution [33/134](#) of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,*

\* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol [A/68/443](#) and Add.1 and 2.



“*Recalling* its resolutions [57/270](#) B of 23 June 2003, [60/212](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/209](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/233](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/1](#) of 6 October 2009, [66/219](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/227](#) of 21 December 2012 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session, the decisions taken at that session and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

“2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

“3. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations;

“4. *Recognizes* the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

“5. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

“6. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

“7. *Recognizes* the need for cooperation, including South-South cooperation, that allows emerging and long-standing energy producers and other players in the field of energy, in particular those in developing countries, to exchange knowledge, experiences, technology and best practices among themselves on a sustained basis in an effort to address their energy challenges to achieve sustainable development;

“8. *Reaffirms* the increased importance of South-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take concrete measures to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and policies into the regular country-level programming of operational activities for development, to strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including drawing upon the knowledge networks of global entities and the capacities of the regional commissions and the United Nations development system regional teams, and to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to achieve their national goals, with special emphasis on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

“9. *Reiterates* the need for the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

“10. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of the fight against poverty and hunger, gender equality, empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;

“11. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and, in this regard, recalls the decision adopted at the intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on 4 June 2013, which reaffirms decision 17/1 adopted at the seventeenth session of the Committee, and further reiterates the request made therein to the Secretary-General to present, in consultation with Member States and as part of his comprehensive report to the Committee at its eighteenth session in 2014, concrete recommendations for strengthening the Office, including its responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, as appropriate, to enable it to support the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation across the United Nations development system;

“12. *Requests* the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to develop its own strategic framework for 2014-2017 according to its mandate from the General Assembly, consistent with the principles, priorities and objectives set by Member States in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi outcome document and other relevant General Assembly resolutions and outcomes of the South summits, taking into consideration the outcome of the review of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South cooperation in the United Nations system; the evolving post-2015 development agenda discussions, the Secretary-General’s operational guidelines on the support by the United Nations to South-South cooperation and the strategic plans of other United Nations entities;

“13. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General, the progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

“14. *Requests* the United Nations development system to enhance its support to South-South cooperation by improving its coordination among agencies, monitoring progress at global and regional levels and evaluating the support of the United Nations development system to those activities;

“15. *Requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

“16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure

that the head of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation is invited to all meetings of the Chief Executives Board pertaining to development issues, in keeping with its status as a separate legal entity within the United Nations for global coordination and promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a United Nations system-wide basis in accordance with General Assembly resolutions;

“17. *Requests* the legislative bodies and executive heads of the United Nations system to create or strengthen existing structure and mechanisms and to provide the necessary resources to develop policies and strategies for South-South cooperation and for strengthening coordination for South-South cooperation;

“18. *Reaffirms* that existing regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and requests the Office to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

“19. *Requests* the legislative and governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to increase the specific percentage — not less than 0.7 per cent — of core budget resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation in their respective areas of competence, in consultation with programme countries, and to agree with donor countries to use a specific portion of extrabudgetary resources to finance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation initiatives;

“20. *Reaffirms* its resolution [60/212](#), in which it designated the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation;

“21. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, and in this context requests all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including the technology transfer facility for landlocked developing countries;

“22. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation and, in this regard, requests all Member States to deepen, intensify and enhance South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities;

“23. *Requests* the United Nations regional commissions to set up strategies and structures/mechanisms and to mobilize or reallocate resources at the legislative, programmatic and operational levels dedicated to enhancing subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation, and to use the annual meetings of the regional coordination mechanisms as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

“24. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities between North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

“25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled ‘Operational activities for development’, a sub-item entitled ‘South-South cooperation for development’, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, focusing on the role of the United Nations and the implementation of the Nairobi outcome document, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the present resolution.”

3. At its 41st meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “South-South cooperation” ([A/C.2/68/L.74](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Waruna Sri Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.5](#).
4. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to proceed to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.74](#).
5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.
6. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.74](#) (see para. 8).
7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.74](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.5](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

### III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### South-South cooperation

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session,<sup>2</sup> the decisions taken at that session<sup>3</sup> and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;<sup>4</sup>

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations,<sup>5</sup> and the related note by the Secretary-General;<sup>6</sup>

4. *Recognizes* the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance, and, in this regard, acknowledges the need to enhance the development effectiveness

<sup>1</sup> *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 and corrigendum), chap. I.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/67/39)*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. I.

<sup>4</sup> A/68/212.

<sup>5</sup> A/66/717.

<sup>6</sup> A/66/717/Add.1.

of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

6. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take concrete measures to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

7. *Recognizes* the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them;

8. *Invites* developing country Member States to improve the impact of South-South cooperation initiatives on sustainable development and to exchange best practices in planning, implementation, data collection and information management;

9. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of considering South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, recalls decision 17/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General, noting the idea of separating the Office as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its eighteenth session and, in consultation with Member States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal evaluating the feasibility and financial, human and budgetary implications of separating this Office, at the same time clarifying contributions of the United Nations Development Programme under such a change, and presenting all options, including, inter alia, the continuation of all existing arrangements and financing options of the Office, including through voluntary contributions as well as core contributions from the United Nations Development Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the Office for South-South Cooperation to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation in order to enable it to respond effectively and efficiently to the South-South cooperation needs of Member States and the United Nations system;

13. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation among developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, the empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;

14. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General, the progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support to South-South and triangular cooperation and monitor progress at the global and regional levels and evaluating the support of the United Nations development system for those activities;

16. *Further requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution [57/263](#) of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Also recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in governments, civil society and the private sector;

19. *Invites* the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, technical and research capacity in support of an enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation, and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

20. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities among North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Operational activities for development”, a sub-item entitled “South-South cooperation for development”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, focusing on how the United Nations development system can improve its support to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

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