



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

High-Level Event of the General Assembly

**“Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation,
and ICT for Development to the Implementation of the
Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

Opening Session

New York

21 May 2014

Please check against delivery

Excellencies,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,
Ms. Abha Joshi-Ghani, Director, Knowledge Exchange & Learning, World Bank
Institute,
Ms. Silvia Ribeiro, Latin America Director, ETC Group,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Guests,

Good morning and welcome to this second of three (3) High-level events in which we attempt to “set the stage” for the post 2015 development agenda. This work is part of an ongoing process to elaborate a global agenda for development for the next fifteen (15) years, which will be an unprecedented undertaking and is galvanizing all sectors. While Member States deliberate on specific goals and targets, the private sector, civil society and international organizations all seek to have their say in what a better world might look like.

And we are certainly moving in the right direction. There has been a significant convergence of views around most of the focal areas proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have also captured millions of voices from global civil society through various consultations and the My World campaign. I am convinced that we will ultimately be able to adopt a set of universal, ambitious sustainable development goals, which will be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

Distinguished Guests,

In order to reach such an agreement, renewing the global partnership for development will be essential. When the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in 2000, the nations of the world agreed to such a global partnership for development. However, we have not yet answered that call, and the new partnership requires us to go even further. It calls for ambitious and innovative ways of mobilizing additional financial resources for sustainable development, building country capacities, and facilitating environmentally sound technologies.

North-South development cooperation is critical to both accelerating progress on the MDGs, as well as implementing the SDGs when they are adopted. It is essential that Official Development Aid (ODA) continues to flow to the countries that are in desperate need of it, and that aid is given and used effectively. Development cooperation should be owned by the recipient countries and it must support their policies and priorities.

Overall, trends in development cooperation have been discouraging in the last few years. But some modest progress has been realized during 2013. Of particular importance is the 2013 rebound in the aggregate volume of aid. ODA rose by 6% in 2013 reaching \$135 billion, despite the global economic crisis. While this is the highest level ever recorded, aid for Africa has fallen.

The gap between Goal 8 targets on trade and policy delivery remains very wide. The Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization held in Bali in December 2013 saw agreement to a modest agenda of new trade-enhancing measures for the benefit of developing countries. This bolstered faith in multilateralism, and I hope that Member States will decide on a road map for concluding the Doha Development Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The rising power and might of the Southern countries opens the landscape of opportunities to include new forms of development cooperation. According to UN estimates, the share of South-South cooperation has increased from 6.7% in 2006 to 10 % in 2011, and has also doubled in terms of actual numbers during that same period.

Further tapping into the potential of South-South cooperation offers myriad benefits at all levels. Developing countries can gain additional access to finance, technology and markets. Investments of Southern partners in infrastructure can help diversify economies and advance industrialization of developing countries. South-South cooperation initiatives can also lead to further national agricultural productivity,

mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, combat climate change, and fight hunger and malnutrition.

Added to this mix is another level of cooperation, namely, triangular cooperation between a Northern partner (s) and two or more Southern recipient countries. At the regional level, South-South and triangular cooperation can help governments and other stakeholders address financial, technical, legal and regulatory challenges. This is important as these challenges often impede the growth of knowledge societies.

South-South and triangular cooperation can contribute to the new global development agenda by strengthening national capabilities and resilience, as well as regional networks and mechanisms. At the same time, gaining a stronger voice in global negotiations and policy-making comes naturally when voices from the South join together.

Distinguished Guests,

Development cooperation can also benefit from the fast-moving changes in the information and communication technologies landscape. These transformations have revolutionized the ways in which knowledge is created, processed, and disseminated, and have led to many enhanced opportunities for cross-border collaboration and accelerated progress on development goals.

The many practical applications of information and communication technologies span across all three dimensions of sustainable development. They can give people voice in decision-making, as well as support public dialogue, participation, transparency and good governance. Mobile technologies can allow farmers to identify the best market prices and track the latest weather information. They can support financial inclusion through mobile banking and promote the development of a low carbon economy by supporting energy efficient infrastructure.

Yet disparities in access within and between countries and regions remain wide. Billions of peoples across the world do not have access to Internet or broadband services and face additional exclusion barriers. It is therefore essential to improve

global access to information and communications technologies and bridge the digital divide.

In this respect, we may wish to learn from existing practices and, possibly, utilize future mechanisms for facilitating the development, dissemination and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Through the transfer of knowledge, technology and successful policies, South-South and triangular cooperation can help in adapting technologies to developing countries' specific needs, and at the same time contribute to national capacities.

The Open Working Group on SDGs is discussing some targets to enhance regional and international cooperation related to science, technology, innovation, solutions-oriented research and knowledge sharing. This can bring countries together in facing the multiple challenges impeding sustainable development and make the post-2015 global partnership for development truly inclusive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the next two days, we will discuss how to ensure that our agenda is well supported with the necessary means for successful implementation. We will look at different forms of development cooperation – North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation – and how each can bring added value to this work, and we will consider how the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) that are revolutionizing our world can help us achieve our development goals.

Against this backdrop, I hope that your meeting will be fruitful and will substantially contribute to a broad convergence around these issues. If we are to turn our ambitions for the post-2015 era into reality, we will need to harness all possible means of implementations. Traditional and new forms of cooperation, technology and innovations will all have an important role to play in shaping the future we want.

Thank you.
