



**President of the General Assembly  
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

**Remarks  
Commemoration of 9th Annual United Nations Day for South-South  
Cooperation**

**12 September 2012  
New York**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address this ceremony commemorating the 9<sup>th</sup> annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation are needed now more than ever.

The challenges of a globalized world are proving too daunting for any nation to tackle them alone.

And they affect countries of the South dis-proportionately.

They require collective and concerted efforts at all levels by all development partners.

Let us not forget that the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, is rapidly approaching.

It is also time to transition toward a sustainable model of development.

So, we need to reshape our development work and methods of delivery.

More focus should be put on concrete efforts in achieving equity, employment, sustainable use of resources, while tackling climate change.

South-South cooperation has proven to be an effective tool in these endeavours.

It has enabled countries of the South to pool, adapt, adopt, replicate and scale-up relevant and appropriate developing solutions and technologies.

This way, the global South has been able to produce concrete development results in agriculture, food security, health, energy and climate change, among others.

South-South cooperation has also been effective in the financing of infrastructure projects across many countries of the South, particularly in Africa.

Triangular cooperation is also showing tangible results, in the area of capacity development, as partners in developed countries support initiatives that are of mutual benefit.

Indeed, we have made good progress this year towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, but much more work remains to be done.

The transition towards a sustainable model of development will require us to combine our strengths and all the resources at our disposal.

This will have to be pursued by deploying all the tools at hand: South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation arrangements.

We now need a better understanding of the principles, roles, and complementarities of South-South cooperation vis-à-vis North-South cooperation at all levels.

We need to harness even more this un-tapped potential for development.

That vision is enshrined in "The future we want".

The Outcome Document of Rio+20 acknowledges the critical importance for all kinds of international cooperation arrangements in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today we honour the achievements and successes of the South on the Ninth Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

Today we have the opportunity to advance a paradigm of development partnership that promotes mutual learning and mutual benefit, national ownership and leadership and the transfer of appropriate technologies, skills and local knowledge.

I have had the privilege of presiding over the 2009 High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi, and I am delighted to see Member States continuing to act on the decisions reached at that event.

I wish to commend the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation for diligently and effectively championing the South-South development agenda throughout the UN system and the world.

I was particularly pleased to witness the work of the Special Unit when I launched the Rio+20 Carbon Emissions Offsetting Initiative, in Rio de Janeiro, last June.

The initiative enabled the United Nations to walk the talk on climate change.

South-South partnerships were instrumental to make the participation of UN staff in the Conference on Sustainable Development become carbon neutral.

It is because the Special Unit is doing such a good job that the General Assembly has been trying to give it a boost for some time now.

Since the Nairobi Conference, the General Assembly has been calling for the upgrade of the institutional structure within the UN system that supports South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The Group of 77 and China has also been pushing for this upgrade.

Throughout this session, I have worked on this matter with my friend, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General.

An important step has now been taken by the General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation to upgrade and rename the Unit as the "United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation".

I am happy with the progress we have made so far. I hope my successor in the Presidency of the General Assembly may be able to build on it.

I am confident the new Office, when it becomes operational, will do more to make South-South and Triangular Cooperation central to international efforts for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and the post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.

**END**