

**PRESENTATION BY H.E. MR. ELADIO LOIZAGA,
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NATIONS AND PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE HIGH-
LEVEL COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, AT THE
BRAINSTORMING SESSION OF THE GROUP OF 77 ON SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION**

New York, 3 May 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen

I wish to join other speakers and thank Ambassador Munir Akram for organizing this brainstorming meeting as we approach the 15th session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. I believe it will enrich deliberations of the Committee on the theme: “The role of the United Nations in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation”. In 1978, the United Nations had the foresight to convene the Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That conference inspired a spirit of solidarity among the countries of the South and set in motion a wide range of concerted development initiatives planned and implemented by developing countries through South-South cooperation.

For example, every region of the developing world has witnessed the spirit of South-South cooperation in relentless efforts towards economic integration as individual countries unite to form sub-regional and regional blocs for closer collaboration in social, economic and political spheres. Thanks to these efforts, flows of South-South trade and investment are growing but we have yet to work for a better interaction in the field of trade among the south countries.

The world we live in today is significantly different from what it was in 1978. It is time to revise the role of United Nations in strengthening South-South cooperation. It is time to update what we had agreed in the BsAs Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege to serve as the President of the High-level Committee on South-South cooperation. Together with other members of the Bureau of the High-level Committee, I have worked closely with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

Allow me Mr. Chairman, to make a few concrete recommendation based on the experience gained over the past two years.

First, the G-77 and China must urgently strengthen the South-South agenda as called for by our heads of State and Government at the second South Summit, in order to,

- a) to consolidate the South-South cooperation agenda as of the one South priority;
- b) to firmly position the agenda at the center of the UN development agenda;

- c) to consolidate the existing inter-governmental governance and multilateral support architecture in order to enhance system-wide coherence and coordination of efforts;
- d) to harness the full potential of Southern solidarity for mutual assistance toward the internationally agreed development goals and Millennium Development Goals.
- e) to help mobilize resources and build broad-based partnerships for SSC, including the private sector and civil society organizations.

Towards these objectives, we the Member States of the G77 and China, and indeed all the member countries of the UN, must take decisive measures to strengthen the existing SSC architecture. The forthcoming HLC should call for the holding of the UN Conference on South-South Cooperation in accordance with GA resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, which called for such a conference.

Second, we need to rethink the governance of South-South cooperation in terms of who sets the agenda, and determines the programmed for the Special Unit. There is a need to reexamine the working methods of the High-level committee and those of its bureau. It is not enough for the Committee to meet once every two years without clarity on its role during the intervening period. We also need to look into how the decisions of the High-level Committee are implemented by member states and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system.

The Special Unit already has the following General Assembly mandate:

- As a global and UN System coordinating body for South-South Cooperation, including developing system-wide guidelines on SSC.
- It serves as the full Secretariat of the GA High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.
- It organizes the United Nation Day for South-South Cooperation (19 December each year).
- It coordinates the System of National South-South Focal Points.
- It coordinates the System of UN Agency Focal Points.
- It manages the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.
- It also provides management services to the G-77 PGTF Fund; the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund
- Prepares global performance reports on TCDC (now on South-South) to the biennial High-level Committee under the GA (HLC) and the SG's biennial report on the State of SSC.
- It also provides support to the G-77 in follow-up of the South Summit.

The UN must faithfully and urgently respond to the decision made by the Heads of State at the 2005 World Summit, that welcome the work of the United Nations High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and invited members state to consider supporting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in order to respond effectively to the development need of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

You will also recall that the Heads of State and Government of the G-77 and China at the Second South Summit (paragraph 110 of the Doha Plan of Action), which requested "the UN

Secretary-General, in consultation with member states, to take concrete measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system as reaffirmed by General Assembly resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003.

Third, as soon as the independent evaluation being conducted on South-South cooperation is completed, its findings need to be examined very carefully, not only by the executive board of the UNDP, but also by the HLC on SSC, so the membership will have the opportunity to revised and to make its comments.

Fourth, it is important to look into existing funding mechanisms and to explore new ones with a view to increasing the volume of resources mobilized to support South-South programmes.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, I hope that our group will give to my suggestions, judicious consideration in the context of the efforts we are making to strengthen South-South Cooperation so that it can better promote international cooperation and consolidate the spirit of solidarity and humanism among developing countries, with the goal to provide better conditions on life to our people.
