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Sistema Económico  
Latinoamericano y del Caribe  
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Economic System

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Sistema Económico  
Latino-Americano e do Caribe  
Système Economique  
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

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## Conclusions and Proposals

*Regional Workshop on funds and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation projects  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Mexico City, Mexico  
28 and 29 July 2011  
SP/TR-FIFPCSS-ALC/CR-11*



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## CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

1. The “Regional Workshop on funds and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean”, organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, took place on 28 and 29 July 2011 in Mexico City, the headquarters of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.
2. Participants took note of the base document titled “Opportunities, prospects and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean” (SP/TR-FIFPCSS-ALC/DT No.2-11), making observations, suggestions and recommendations, which will be taken into consideration by the Permanent Secretariat in drafting the final version of this document, which will be submitted on the occasion of the XIX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama.
3. Similarly, they recognized and expressed their gratitude for the presentations made by the representatives of regional and international organizations, regional and sub-regional integration and cooperation agencies, organizations of the UN system, bilateral development agencies and representatives of international cooperation directions and agencies of the Member States of SELA. The remarks made by the delegates of the countries were useful to enrich the exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices and highlighted the important work being carried out by the region in promoting and strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
4. Participants underscored the importance of the contributions made by the regional and international organizations: the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77, the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community (CAN), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation, and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South. Participants also thanked for the presentations made by the government representatives of the cooperation agencies of Ecuador, Uruguay, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador and Belize.
5. In their exchanges of views and debates on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation (TC), participants highlighted the following aspects:
  - a) The need to understand that SSC is a cooperation modality that does not exclude North-South Cooperation (NSC), but complements it with the purpose of achieving the goals and objectives agreed upon as priorities in national development plans and international agreements.
  - b) The importance of further strengthening regional and subregional institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of South-South Cooperation, by developing an own agenda and pursuing the greatest and best possible coordination among the various stakeholders working in the area of regional cooperation.
  - c) The advisability of continuing to work on the focalization, prioritization and systematization of best practices, the development of methodologies, indicators and

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common criteria for collecting data and statistics on regional cooperation; reaching consensus on some analytical tools to determine the quantity and quality of South-South Cooperation actions, in order to achieve greater inter-institutional coordination and undertake initiatives to support decentralized cooperation and the progressive inclusion of new stakeholders. These are pending issues in the complex and broad agenda for South-South Cooperation.

d) Participants warned that the already scarce official development assistance received by the region is likely to be further affected by the persisting global economic and financial crisis. This makes it absolutely necessary to strengthen the potentials offered by SSC and TC, and create or improve innovative mechanisms to finance SSC operations. In addition, they stressed that industrialized countries have not yet complied with their multilateral commitments to allocate 0.7% of their GDP to Official Development Assistance, and that it is not convenient to keep the per-capita income as the basic criterion for allocation of resources to international cooperation for developing countries.

e) They also highlighted the importance of considering both refundable and non-refundable cooperation within the context of South-South Cooperation, as well as the distinctive features of this cooperation modality that attaches priority to technical assistance, training, the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and the institutional, development with a view to making progress towards social and economic well-being in the countries of the region.

6. With respect to the perspective of international organizations as regards South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, participants highlighted the efforts being made within the framework of the United Nations System to promote these cooperation modalities, and above all the changes registered in the context of the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in order to make strides towards a new structure of the architecture to support South-South Cooperation at the international level.

7. The debates underscored that there are significant advantages in implementing South-South and Triangular cooperation activities through multilateral organizations and regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms, because that allows for the activities to have greater visibility, reduce costs, take advantage of the institutional framework and networks of contacts of these organizations, and use the expertise and experience accumulated by those regional institutions and centres of excellence for executing SSC projects and activities. It should also be noted that SSC and TC activities through these regional and subregional cooperation organizations are developed by taking into account the principles, values and goals agreed upon and considered to be a priority by Latin American and Caribbean governments.

8. Participants pointed to the large number of initiatives being undertaken by multilateral organizations and regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms in the area of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as the need to create spaces to share and report on such experiences, implement coordination mechanisms and take full advantage of all the experiences gained in the area of cooperation. They also highlighted the advisability of structuring an agenda that attaches priority to the major issues and identifies opportunities as well as the central problems that SSC and TC should and capitalize on and tackle in Latin America and the Caribbean in the short, medium and long terms.

9. Participants also underscored that the region counts on sound integration and cooperation institutions, specialized technical and financial agencies and national centres of excellence that are capable of promoting SSC and TC actions in an effective and efficient way.

10. Some participants agreed that some of the main challenges of international cooperation – including SSC and TC – are related to governance, and therefore they recognized the need to build an articulated and well coordinated agenda among the Latin American and Caribbean countries, with a view to strengthening the participation of our governments in international forums and organizations discussing the new architecture of international cooperation.

11. Participants took note with interest of the “XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean,” scheduled to be held in Panama City on 29 and 30 September 2011, under the auspices of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the Government of Panama, through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health, and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77 (G-77), whose central topic will be “Integration, Cooperation and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

## **PROPOSALS**

1. Participants recognized the need for strengthening and professionalizing institutional and management mechanisms for SSC in each country, because by attaching them the importance and institutional weight that they deserve, it is possible to increase the efficiency and impact of SSC.

2. It is important to optimize information and communications in quantitative and qualitative terms, as key elements to measure, monitor and evaluate SSC. It is also necessary to improve the exchange of experiences and strengths among the various countries of the region, which would facilitate, for example, the identification of offers and requests for SSC in Latin America and the Caribbean, while optimizing the use of resources.

3. In order to continue with the efforts to systematize information about the various tools, mechanisms and funds for financing South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, the Permanent Secretariat will distribute – among regional and international organizations, the regional and subregional integration and cooperation schemes, the agencies of the United Nations System, the bilateral development agencies and the directions of international cooperation of the Member States of SELA – a form for gathering information in order to develop profiles for each cooperation source, so as to prepare a “Directory of Cooperation Sources for Financing South-South and Triangular Cooperation”.

4. In addition, participants stressed the need to set up a database with relevant information on actions, activities, programmes and projects for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation being developed by the countries and the regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms. This will contribute to disseminate successful experiences and best practices.

5. Given the various actions being carried out by international organizations and regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms in LAC, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA will continue to follow up and analyze these activities, which will be regularly reported to the government authorities of Member States through the Forum of International Cooperation Directors of LAC.

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6. The creation of funds for South-South cooperation must be promoted by national focal points for international cooperation in order to implement programmes, projects and initiatives at the Latin American and Caribbean level.

7. It is absolutely necessary to continue to promote the conduction of meetings to deal with issues of priority and interest to the region's national focal points for international cooperation in the area of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation.

8. The delegates congratulated the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and the Government of Mexico – particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – for successfully organizing and supporting the conduction of this Regional Seminar.