



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 BY MR. MOHAMED GAD, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIRST INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE SECOND HIGH LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION (New York, 27 November 2018)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77.

At the outset, the Group would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Adonia Ayebare, permanent representative of Uganda and H.E. Ms. Audra Plepyte, permanent representative of Lithuania for their appointment as co-facilitators of the informal intergovernmental negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Second High Level United Nations Conference South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference) to be held in Buenos Aires Argentina, from 20 to 22 March 2019. We would like to affirm that the group is keen to engage constructively in the upcoming process on the draft outcome document of the conference with full confidence in your leadership.

The forthcoming BAPA+40 conference is an opportunity to enhance south-south cooperation and to identify the proper ways to harness it for achieving the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. BAPA+40 conference will take place against a very particular backdrop. In the last few decades, South-South cooperation has experienced a remarkable expansion at all levels, brought together a great variety of actors and earned important placement in the international cooperation agenda.

There are principles that have guided South-South cooperation that remain valid. South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. It 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.

South-South Cooperation is a collective effort of the developing countries. It must remain a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, building on their needs, experience, capabilities, best practices, diversified culture and many other circumstances. It has been taking place in a wide range of areas, in support of development processes of the developing countries, which contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and to the achievement of the SDGs

Diversity of approaches in applying South-south Cooperation is one of its advantages. It allows South-South Cooperation to take different and evolving forms that are not limited to one aspect of cooperation. Such forms could include, inter alia, the sharing of knowledge and experiences, training, technology transfer, and in-kind contributions.

Since developing countries face similar development challenges, the proximity of experience is a key catalyst in promoting capacity development in the developing countries, which allows sharing common views on national development strategies and priorities.

BAPA+40 will be an occasion to assess progress, review lessons learned and identify challenges. It will be an opportunity to step up south-south cooperation contribution to the overarching goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, on the basis of the principles and parameters mentioned above and taking advantage of the significant achievements by the developing countries.

In this context, the Group affirms that our engagement on the upcoming process should be based on the well-established principles of south-south cooperation. We would like to inform you that the group is currently coordinating to provide the co-facilitators with preliminary position paper delineating its views as to the content of the draft outcome document.

While we look forward to have clarity on the timetable of the informal consultations, the Group request that this timetable should consider the current time constraints, due to the overloaded agenda of the second committee, and to allow more time for coordination before issuance of the zero draft.

Thank you.