

STATEMENT  
BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
AMBASSADOR ISMAEL GASPAR MARTINS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AT THE 15TH SESSION OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR  
SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION

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Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset, to congratulate you as well as the other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation is confident that under your leadership we will have a fruitful session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made earlier by the Distinguished Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in an atmosphere of peace and security represent the most important challenge for the developing world. In this regard, promoting and strengthening South-South cooperation is an important tool for the implementation of development strategies.

This session of the High-level Committee on South-South cooperation provides us, once again, with the opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. In this connection, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive reports under examination.

The report SSC/15/1 highlights the significant progress made by some developing countries in eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development by implementing projects in partnership with others developing countries as well as with developed countries and UN agencies and funds and programs, at the national, regional and inter-regional levels.

As the report highlights, despite a number of positive developments in alleviating poverty, there is nevertheless widespread concern that a number of countries will fail to achieve the 7 per cent target growth rate and noted that persistent inequalities among the poorest countries persist, particularly in the Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Much remain to be done to mitigate the difficult challenges in these countries.

Mr President,

My delegation remains committed to achieving the goals and targets contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and notes with satisfaction that the South-South cooperation agenda has expanded significantly to include the transfer of technology, health, knowledge sharing, commodity management and food security, education and literacy, human capacity building and disaster mitigation.

To further harness the potential in South South cooperation, it is imperative to incorporate the South-South dimension in conception and implementation of development strategies. Even though regional organizations and the UN system have been incorporating South-South approaches in their policies and programmes, it is an essential to systematize the South-South cooperation agenda. In this area the Special Unit on South-South cooperation has an important role to play. This role should be revised and accompanied by renewed engagement of the whole UN system.

My delegation supports the report's recommendation that the High-level Committee on South-South cooperation and other relevant intergovernmental bodies should therefore consider designing a new architecture to ensure coherence and coordination of South-South cooperation in addressing transnational development challenges at the sub-regional, regional interregional levels.

South-South cooperation will continue to be an important complement to North-South cooperation. Developing and developed countries must remain engaged to assemble the global partnership so necessary for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

Mr. President,

In my country our achievements in the consolidation of peace and economic growth benefited and shall continue to benefit from the valuable assistance from friends in the developing world. Our post-conflict challenge to rehabilitate and develop the social and economic infrastructure that sustains the peace is steadily being tackled. The government of Angola is implementing a set of measures and policies to achieve macro-economic stability by reducing inflation, stabilizing interest rates and the exchange rate, the result of which are widely known. Simultaneously, my government is engaged in rehabilitating vital economic infrastructure to ensure communication, transportation, and access to energy, education, health and economic opportunity as well as gender equality. As a result, the Angolan economy remains among the top performers in Africa. In due course the effects of these investments will be translated into improved human development indicators and sustained economic growth.

We deeply appreciate the cooperation with some developing countries that together with some countries of the North are our partners for development and progress.

It is a foregone conclusion that through South-South, North-South and Triangular cooperation we can succeed in achieving the agreed international development goals, including the MDG's. Our challenge is to harness this potential, including the capabilities, capacities and resources of the United Nations System to pursue sustained economic growth and sustainable development in a coherent, coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Thank you