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**BOGOTA STATEMENT: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIPS (FINAL VERSION, MARCH 25, 2010)**

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This document is submitted for INFORMATION following the Bogota High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, 24-25 March 2010.

For more information please contact:

Brenda Killen brenda.killen@oecd.org (+33) 1 45248372

Misaki Watanabe misaki.watanabe@oecd.org (+33) 1 45247626

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**BOGOTA STATEMENT: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIPS (FINAL VERSION, MARCH 25, 2010)**

This document was prepared by the Steering Committee¹ responsible for organising the Bogota High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development. It contains ideas which might prove useful to enhance the practice of South-South Cooperation. It is presented to the participants for their consideration and reference.

We, representatives of partner countries, donors, multilateral and bilateral development organisations, parliaments and civil society, recognise that South-South cooperation (SSC) is an important instrument of effective and inclusive partnerships. We have met in Bogota, Colombia, at the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, to acknowledge its role in building capacity and advancing development, take stock of the lessons of experience and identify challenges, and outline the way forward. Our purpose was to implement the mandate of the Accra Agenda for Action and promote a greater role for, and increased effectiveness in, SSC.

With this in view, we commit ourselves to promote and implement good practices from SSC and capacity development to support countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and tackling emerging global development challenges, recognising that gender equality, respect for human rights, and environmental sustainability are cornerstones for achieving enduring impacts on the lives of people, particularly poor and marginalised populations.

1. A Southern-led process

a) SSC is a natural expression of collaboration and mutual interest between partner countries, at global, regional, and country levels. SSC is a historical process, with unique characteristics, which reflects solidarity, adapts to local contexts and capacities, and promotes mutual benefit and win-win outcomes and horizontal partnerships. SSC is not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South development cooperation, with triangular cooperation acting as a bridge between South-South and North-South cooperation.

b) Although there has been a long tradition of collaborative work among partner countries, the current economic and social environment provides opportunities to foster mutual learning across all partners. South-South learning for all countries in all phases of development is key to capacity development through sharing of experience and learning, knowledge exchange, and technology and skills transfers—all of which are important components of SSC.

c) As a Southern-led initiative, we have established a process to implement the mandate set out in paragraphs 19 and 14b of the Accra Agenda for Action. We aspire to mutually enrich and adapt the aid effectiveness principles and SSC based on the diverse experiences and good practice from SSC, and to

¹ The Steering Committee members of the Bogota High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development are Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam, Asian Development Bank (AsDB), Better Aid, European Commission (EC), Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB), NEPAD, Organisation of American States (OAS), OCDE, UNDP and the World Bank.

further explore complementarities and synergies between SSC and North-South cooperation. While recognising the need to respect the uniqueness and particularities of SSC, we also recognise the value and relevance of these principles in the practices of SSC.

d) SSC is gaining momentum. Partner countries, particularly middle-income countries, are increasingly contributing to cooperation, generating important changes in the global development architecture, opening a window of opportunity for all development actors to work together towards a more inclusive, effective, and horizontal global development agenda.

2. Building up evidence

a) In preparing for the Bogota High Level Event and complementing the work of other platforms dedicated to addressing SSC issues, the Task Team on South-South Cooperation at the DAC-hosted Working Party on Aid Effectiveness has promoted a unique evidence-based approach. We can already draw on a rich source of experiences, generated in more than 110 case stories produced mainly by practitioners from all over the developing world, demonstrating the potential of SSC to enrich the aid effectiveness agenda. In this process, many champions and leaders have also been identified and were brought together to share their experiences and views on development cooperation.

b) While recognising that this process is only beginning, and additional rigorous evidence needs to be generated, this process so far has shown significant potential and key findings in the practice of SSC and capacity development:

- i. Enabling environments and adequate policy and institutional frameworks and conditions in partner countries are key to successful strengthening of SSC.
- ii. Partnerships need to be based on trust, confidence, and respect.
- iii. Successful SSC experiences have the flexibility to adapt to particular contexts.
- iv. Southern-based practitioners and technical experts need to share their experience not only at the country level, but also at the regional and global levels, to facilitate mutual learning and capacity development.

c) Our findings have also underlined a few important challenges in SSC practices:

- i. There is a lot to learn from aid effectiveness principles and their implementation. SSC practices can be further enhanced by adapting to the lessons in the aid effectiveness context, especially by improving transparency and accounting for results through strengthening capacities for information management and mutual accountability, especially at country and local levels.
- ii. There is room to improve complementarities and promote synergies between partner countries and traditional donors, including through triangular cooperation, by reducing transaction costs and engaging in mixed modalities that combine capacities, know-how, and resources from the North and the South.
- iii. To derive maximum benefits from SSC requires deepening ownership by promoting demand-driven approaches and engaging the participation of civil society, parliaments, private sector, and other nongovernmental actors in development matters.
- iv. There is much scope to bring together, in a coordinated manner, the global and regional platforms addressing SSC—such as the UN ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation—to generate synergy, benefit from enriching diversities, and collectively develop a strong Southern-led agenda on development cooperation effectiveness. These platforms should be linked to regional communities of practice, as a means of disseminating and applying good practices and sharing experiences.

3. Towards Seoul and beyond: Building effective and inclusive development partnerships

a) In looking forward to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2011, we are committed to build on the lessons of experience to promote and improve the effectiveness of SSC to support countries in achieving their development objectives and to assist in tackling emerging global development challenges.

b) We urge all development actors to address capacity bottlenecks—a major impediment to aid and development effectiveness—by adopting a broader view of what it takes to develop capacities and by promoting horizontal learning and knowledge exchange. The process created for the Bogota High Level Event offers enormous potential for identifying and sharing Southern-led experiences that showcase the benefits and challenges of horizontal cooperation.

c) We shall continue to engage in the global dialogue on development, to promote the integration of aid effectiveness principles and good practices as advocated by the Paris and Accra High Level Forums and by the positive experiences emerging from SSC practices, enriching the aid effectiveness agenda and contributing to overall development effectiveness.

d) We highlight key outcomes of our roundtable discussions, and encourage all development actors to put into action the recommendations emerging from these discussions:

- i. Effective SSC requires an inclusive approach to ensure sufficient voice for all development stakeholders. It relies on strong country ownership and leadership, underpinned by adequate policy space for effective implementation.
- ii. It strengthens the capacities of local institutions based on locally appropriate lessons and best practice. It is supported by regional and global mechanisms to match supply and demand, to facilitate peer-learning, and to document and disseminate lessons learned.
- iii. There is a strong need to improve measurement, monitoring and transparency of SSC to facilitate effective planning and implementation. It is critical to promote peer-learning and SSC on data collection and information management with a focus on strengthening country systems.
- iv. In the current changing development cooperation environment, there is a need to enhance definitions of technical cooperation, which is often central to SSC.
- v. Recognising the added value of existing sub-regional, regional and inter-regional initiatives and actors on SSC, there is an opportunity to draw on and invest in these to promote policy dialogue and generate knowledge.
- vi. Triangular cooperation should be seen as a broad process that involves three or more development actors - from different countries and organisations. In order for triangular cooperation to be effective, it is important that each actor contributes according to their respective comparative advantages - and shares responsibility for demand-based development results.
- vii. Emerging mechanisms to promote SSC should be demand-driven to ensure ownership and sustainability. They should apply sound capacity development and M&E methodologies for learning and scaling-up, and be supported by aligned regional and global facilitation and coordination mechanisms.
- viii. It is important to foster mutual learning among southern practitioners and facilitate knowledge management and learning to tackle global development challenges such as climate change. Evidence should be used to design local solutions and ensure flexibility in their implementation.

ix. It is critical to ensure continued multi-stakeholder engagement in order to sustain the development results achieved through SSC. Parliamentarians, civil society organisations and the private sector should be engaged in implementing SSC to tap their comparative advantages.

e) We will identify ways of agreeing on mechanisms to be used from now to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to implement and carry forward some of the actions listed above.