



Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation

Renewed partnerships for actionable solutions in support of implementation of the Doha Programme of Action

Summary of proceedings

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to deliver the summary of the Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation. The theme of the meeting was “Renewed partnerships for actionable solutions in support of implementation of the DPoA”. It was co-organized by UN-OHRLLS, the Government of Qatar (the host country to the LDC5 Conference) and the Government of Malawi (Chair of the Group of the Least Developed Countries) in collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

The meeting was held on 7 March from 09:00 to 12:00. The meeting consisted of two sessions: 1. Fireside chat on how to reinvigorate South-South and triangular cooperation for actionable solutions in support of implementation of the DPoA; 2. Panel discussion on accelerating South-South and triangular cooperation to recover from the impacts of the ongoing crises, build resilience and accelerate the implementation of the DPoA. The meeting drew high-level and extensive participation of LDCs, partners from the Global South and traditional development partners, UN entities, regional development banks, other inter-governmental organizations, CSOs and media. There was enormous interest in the meeting demonstrated by a packed room and an over-inscribed list of speakers.

The followings are some of the key takeaways from the meeting:

There was unanimous expression of support and solidarity with the LDCs. Member States, partners and stakeholders reiterated their pledges, tangible support, and capacity building initiatives tailored for LDCs.

LDCs are faced with complex challenges and multiple shocks. These challenges include impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts and their impact on food and energy security, rising debt and a climate crisis.

South-South cooperation, anchored in solidarity and equality, is

Triangular cooperation helps with providing additional resources to complement South-South cooperation. It plays a crucial role in adapting solutions to the LDC context. There was a call for scaling up triangular cooperation including engagement with the private sector and multi-stakeholders to support efforts of Southern partners.

South-South and triangular cooperation has huge potential. We must break the silos and strengthen partnerships. There was a particular call for more support for the United Nations system to mobilize resources to meet emerging and overlapping challenges.

Many speakers expressed concerns about external debt crisis faced by LDCs and called for debt cancellation of LDCs and reform of the global economic and financial architecture. It was stressed that while South-South cooperation can contribute to achieving the DPoA, it should NOT be considered a substitute for other kinds of cooperation.

The Ministerial meeting heard a large number of initiatives from creation of a platform for intra-African trade and common African agro-parks, an International Institute for Development of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a roadmap for monitoring and reviewing contribution of South-South Cooperation to the implementation of the DPoA, and to support STI and technology transfers through the UN Technology Bank for LDCs and many others. A full report with details of all statements delivered