



Message from Carlos M. Correa, Executive Director

I have been honoured by the nomination as Executive Director of the South Centre, the intergovernmental organization of developing countries. I express my gratitude to the members of the Board and the outgoing Chair, H.E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for entrusting me with the challenging opportunity of serving the global South through this position. It will be a privilege to work under the guidance of the new elected Board Chair, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa.

The South Centre is in itself a notable example of South-South cooperation. Since its establishment in 1995, and building upon the work of the South Commission under the leadership of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, the Centre has proven to be a distinct and effective institution serving as a think-tank of developing countries. In my term as Executive Director, I intend to consolidate its role by strengthening its capacity to conduct policy-oriented research and to provide technical support on key policy development issues. The Secretariat of the Centre will continue to assist developing countries in creating a collective consciousness about their role and to better address the challenges and opportunities arising in multilateral affairs.

The work of the Secretariat, undertaken in interaction with its Member States and other South-based research bodies, will aim at helping our countries to better understand the key implications of the various negotiating processes and policies for their development needs, particularly in relation to the international trading system, the sustainable development agenda, the global intellectual property regime, climate change, investment, the economic and social human rights agenda, international debt and financing for development, global health and access to medicines. We will also continue to work on emerging issues, such as antimicrobial resistance, illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and evasion.

I will make all necessary efforts to ensure that the Secretariat cooperates in these areas with the developing countries and the organizations that express their aspirations, as well as with relevant UN agencies, and that the Centre retains the capacity to respond to any new demands that may arise out in the multilateral context or at the national or regional level in respect of development policies.

While fully recognizing the diversity in national situations and priorities, the Centre must be able to promote the unity of developing countries. Consolidating the South unity in a context of diversity is a challenge that we need to face on the basis of dialogue and effective South-South cooperation. I will use the best of my knowledge and experience to help our countries to work united behind an agenda that can collectively improve their capacity to preserve the space needed to implement the policies they choose to achieve a sustainable and inclusive development. This unity is particularly critical in the current scenario of serious attacks against multilateralism and the legitimacy of development policies implemented by some of our

countries to increase their participation in global trade, expand local value added, promote industrial diversification and technological catching-up.

I wish, finally, to call upon the support of our membership and all developing countries, as well as of all those who are truly engaged in addressing the challenges and needs of the South. I look forward to cooperating with all of you.

Carlos M. Correa
Executive Director