

**Messages
Celebrating**

25

**Years of the
South Centre**



Introduction

The South Centre is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. The Centre was established by an Intergovernmental Agreement which came into force on 31 July 1995. Its predecessor, the South Commission, recognized the need to strengthen South-South cooperation in international affairs. In its report *The Challenge to the South*, the South Commission emphasized the need for countries of the South to work together at the global level. That is why the Commission recommended the creation of a South organization charged with undertaking this challenge. The South Centre, an independent intergovernmental think-tank of developing countries, was then created to analyze the development problems of the developing countries, encourage them to value and share their common experience and provide intellectual and policy support for them to act collectively and individually, particularly at the international level.

This document compiles the messages received from the Missions in Geneva of Member States of the South Centre and other communications received concerning the 25 years celebration. The South Centre is very grateful for the warm wishes and pledges of continued support expressed in these messages, and reaffirms its commitment to remain at the service of its Member States and the South at large.

Argentina



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR.
FEDERICO VILLEGAS, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

La Misión Permanente de la República Argentina en Ginebra se complace en saludar al South Centre en el marco de la celebración de su 25 aniversario. Reconociendo que al margen de las acciones de los países miembros gran valía de las organizaciones reside en el profesionalismo y calidad humana de su propio Secretariado, deseamos extender nuestra valoración a cada integrante del staff de este renombrado think-tank internacional.

Resumir en unas pocas líneas la vasta trayectoria de insumos generados e iniciativas impulsadas por el South Centre que informaron decisiones y medidas adoptadas por la Argentina no haría verdadera justicia a la ardua, dedicada e incansable labor del Centro. Nos permitimos por lo tanto, sin ser claramente una lista exhaustiva, destacar tres elementos recientes que nos resultan de especial significancia.

Primeramente, como anfitriones de la Conferencia de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Sur-Sur (PABA +

40) que tuvo lugar en Buenos Aires en marzo de 2019, resaltamos el evento paralelo co-organizado por el Centro del Sur y la OIT sobre "El futuro del trabajo, el empleo juvenil y la cooperación Sur-Sur" además de la sesión de seguimiento de los resultados de la Conferencia que el South Centre realizó en Ginebra junto a la OIT y a la UNCTAD en mayo de dicho año, en la que tuvimos el honor de participar como panelistas.

En segundo lugar, ante los estragos causados por la pandemia del COVID-19, destacamos la carta abierta del Dr. Correa dirigida a los Directores Generales de la OMS, de la OMPI y de la OMC, planteando con contundencia irrefutable que ningún interés comercial puede primar sobre el acceso a la salud, unificando así la voz de los países en desarrollo frente a dicho flagelo.

Finalmente, ante la expansión del comercio electrónico, acelerada por la pandemia, nos congratulamos por las diferentes iniciativas promovidas por el South Centre tendientes a contribuir a los debates sobre las implicancias de la no imposición de aranceles a las transmisiones electrónicas (moratoria); contexto en el que se evidenció los estrechos lazos que el Centro mantiene no solamente con los gobiernos sino también con la sociedad civil.

Alentamos al South Centre a continuar fiel a su objetivo de reforzar la cooperación Sur-Sur en los temas internacionales y a mantener en alto el distinguido prestigio que merecidamente supo conquistar.



Federico Villegas
Embajador

20 de agosto de 2020

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic in Geneva is pleased to greet the South Centre in the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Recognizing that apart from the actions of the Member Countries, the great value of organizations lie in the professionalism and human quality of their own Secretariats, we wish to extend our appreciation to each member of the staff of this renowned international think-tank.

Summarizing in a few lines the vast trajectory of inputs generated and initiatives promoted by the South Centre that informed decisions and measures adopted by Argentina would not do true justice to the arduous, dedicated and tireless work of the Centre. We therefore allow ourselves, without being clearly an exhaustive list, to highlight three recent elements that are of special significance to us.

First, as hosts of the United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA + 40) that took place in Buenos Aires in March 2019, we highlight the side event co-organized by the South Centre and the ILO on "The future of work, youth employment and South-South cooperation" in addition to the follow-up session on the results of the Conference that the South Centre held in Geneva together with the ILO and UNCTAD in May of that year, in which we had the honor of participating as panelists.

Second, given the ravages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we highlight the open letter from Dr. Correa addressed to the Directors General of the WHO, WIPO and the WTO, stating with irrefutable forcefulness that no commercial interest can take precedence over access to health, thus unifying the voice of developing countries in the face of this scourge.

Finally, given the expansion of electronic commerce, accelerated by the pandemic, we congratulate the South Centre for the different initiatives it promoted, aimed at contributing to the debates on the implications of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions (moratorium); context in which the close ties that the Centre maintains not only with governments but also with civil society were evidenced.

We encourage the South Centre to continue being faithful to its objective of reinforcing South-South cooperation in international affairs and to uphold the distinguished prestige that it has deservedly achieved.

Federico Villegas
Ambassador

20 August 2020

Bolivia

MESSAGE FROM MS. MARIA GABRIELA OROSCO OLMOS,
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I., PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA TO MR. CARLOS CORREA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

Ginebra, 31 de agosto de 2020

Señor Director Ejecutivo,

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted, para hacer llegar un mensaje de felicitación en oportunidad del 25 aniversario del Centro Sur, entidad intergubernamental de la cual el Estado Bolivia Plurinacional de Bolivia es miembro desde hace ya varios años.

Para el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia es de particular satisfacción celebrar cuarto siglo de existencia del Centro Sur y destacar su labor en el campo del análisis y la investigación de los problemas de desarrollo de los países en desarrollo, el fomento del diálogo entre los países del sur, así como en el establecimiento de espacios de intercambio para compartir prioridades comunes con el apoyo intelectual del equipo multidisciplinario del Centro.

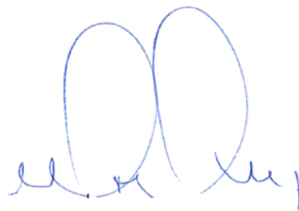
De forma particular, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia valora el trabajo del Centro Sur en temas como cambio climático, comercio internacional, innovación, propiedad intelectual, cuestiones de salud y desarrollo, entre otros; sin duda su aporte reflexivo ha permitido contar con una visión desde el Sur de estas temáticas de actual relevancia y ha propiciado una participación efectiva en los procesos de negociación internacional.

Así también, Bolivia agradece la predisposición y el apoyo recibido en la capacitación de los cuadros técnicos, así como en el desarrollo de propuestas de negociación en temáticas de salud, propiedad intelectual, cambio climático, comercio, inversiones, para mencionar algunos ejemplos.

Estamos seguros de que la contribución del Centro Sur a los países en desarrollo se verá renovada en el actual contexto internacional complejo y desafiante. La crisis sanitaria y la crisis económica post COVID-19 pondrá a prueba a la comunidad internacional y contamos con la contribución del Centro para lograr un mejor entendimiento de estos desafíos.

En su 25 aniversario, el Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia desea hacer llegar un cordial saludo al Centro Sur y alentar a continuar sus investigaciones, así como a promover posiciones comunes entre los países en desarrollo en los diferentes temas de la agenda internacional. De la misma manera hace extensivo su reconocimiento al Sr. Thabo Mbeki, ex-Presidente de Sud África y a su persona por su liderazgo al frente de la institución.

Con este motivo, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar a usted las seguridades de mi más alta consideración.



Gabriela Orosco Olmos
ENCARGADA DE NEGOCIOS a.i.

Geneva, August 31, 2020

Dear Executive Director,

I am pleased to salute you on the South Centre's 25th anniversary, an intergovernmental entity of which the Plurinational State of Bolivia is a member for several years now.

It is a satisfaction for the Plurinational State of Bolivia to celebrate the South Centre's quarter of a century existence. We highlight its work on the field of analysis and research on the development problems of developing countries, the promotion of the South-South dialogue, and the establishment of spaces for the exchange to share common priorities with the academic support of the multidisciplinary team of the Centre.

In a way, the Plurinational State of Bolivia values the South Centre's work on issues such as climate change, international trade, innovation, intellectual property, health, and development issues, among others. Assuredly, its reflective contribution has allowed us to have a vision from the South of these current relevant issues and has fostered effective participation in international negotiation processes.

Likewise, Bolivia appreciates the willingness and support received in the training of technical staffs and the development of negotiation proposals on issues of health, intellectual property, climate change, trade, and investment, to mention a few examples.

We are confident that the South Centre's contribution to developing countries will be renewed in the current complex and challenging international context. The health crisis and the post-COVID-19 economic crisis will put the international community to the test. We are counting on the contribution of the Centre to achieve a better understanding of these challenges.

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia wishes to extend, on its 25th anniversary, a cordial greeting to the South Centre and encourage them to continue their research activity, as well as to promote common positions among developing countries on the different issues of the international agenda. In the same way, it extends its recognition to Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former South Africa president, and you for the leadership at the institution's head.

Thus, I take the opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Gabriela Orosco Olmos
Chargée d'Affaires a.i.

China



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. CHEN XU,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND TO
MR. CARLOS CORREA, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

Geneva, 2 September 2020

Your Excellency,

On the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the South Centre, I would like to extend to you my warm congratulations. Since its establishment, the South Centre has played a unique role in supporting multilateralism, conducting policy research and providing intellectual and policy support for developing countries to participate in global economic governance. The past 25 years have witnessed positive results made by the South Centre. Hereby, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the successive chairpersons of the Board for their leadership and to thank the Secretariat for its contributions.

Nowadays, with the constant emergence of new challenges such as anti-globalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, downward risks and uncertainties of the global economy are rising simultaneously. The external environment for developing countries becomes more complicated and severe. The international community, while maintaining the role of South-North cooperation as the main channel, should work to deepen South-South and tripartite cooperation. China has always been a firm supporter of multilateralism and an active partner for international development cooperation and South-South cooperation and will continue to support multilateralism and work closely with the international community in that regard.

China has always attached great importance to the cooperation with the South Centre. Since 1995, our two sides have maintained a good cooperative relationship and have deepened cooperation in the fields of trade, intellectual property, human rights and development where fruitful results have been achieved. China supports the South Centre in making greater contribution to South-South cooperation and looks forward to strengthening further cooperation between our two sides, safeguarding the common interests of developing countries, and implementing jointly the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pha' or 'Pha' with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHEN Xu
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

Ecuador

MESSAGE FROM
H.E. MR. EMILIO
RAFAEL IZQUIERDO
MIÑO, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ECUADOR TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA



I have the honor to present my warmest congratulations to the South Centre, for its 25th Anniversary. The Centre was established by an Intergovernmental Agreement, and formally began its activities in 1995. Since then, the organization has played an essential role as an independent think-tank, to follow the main concerns of developing countries, helping them in the analysis and the achievement of solutions, and offering the adequate tools in order to achieve the best actions in the international arena, and to strengthen South-South cooperation in international affairs. Among its functions and objectives, the South Centre provides them with intellectual and strategic support to strengthen their individual and collective positions at the international level and help them articulate common points of view concerning international policies related to development.

Likewise, the Centre supports developing countries to combine their efforts and competencies in defending their common interests in international negotiation forums, analyze these countries' development challenges, encourage them to value and share their common experiences. To this end, the South Centre carries out research and analysis activities on international policies that are fundamental for the protection and strengthening of the interests of developing countries in various spheres, in particular for their development and, within the limits of its capacity and mandate, the Centre also cooperates with strategic advice and technical support to members, and like-minded developing groups.

Faced with the Centre's significant space of action, I would like to express my gratitude for the support provided to Ecuador, through the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. Ecuador is looking forward to continuing its excellent relationship with the South Centre, and in this framework, my country highly appreciates the valuable cooperation offered by the Centre in various topics, including those related to development, environment, health, business and human rights, intellectual property, digital economy, strengthening of multilateralism, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

As a representative of Ecuador, I would like to thank the South Centre for the support given, academically and technically, in issues of the global agenda, particularly in those concerning responsiveness of the international community, such as Human Rights, among others, to develop initiatives focused in the development of international law.

28 August 2020

Gabon



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MS. MIREILLE SARAH NZENZE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

A l'occasion du 25^{ème} anniversaire du Centre-Sud, je voudrais exprimer ma haute appréciation ainsi que celle de la Mission permanente du Gabon à l'égard du travail effectué par cette Organisation intergouvernementale dont mon pays est partie.

A travers ses publications diverses et ses briefings préparatoires aux réunions des Organisations des Nations Unies et des grandes Conférences de la Genève internationales, le Centre-Sud est depuis 1995 d'un soutien indéniable dans la conscientisation des pays membres en particulier et des pays en développement en général, sur les défis mondiaux de l'heure, sur les problématiques nouvelles et sur la manière dont les pays en développement devraient les aborder, afin d'assurer une meilleure prise en compte de leurs points de vues.

Ce soutien est d'un intérêt particulièrement important dans les domaines de l'analyse et de la compréhension des Conventions internationales et dans l'élaboration et la consolidation des positions. Ma

Mission est notamment reconnaissante au Centre-Sud pour sa grande contribution dans le domaine de l'accès aux médicaments pour les pays en développement, domaine dans lequel il est une ressource précieuse pour nos Etats et dans lequel ses analyses sur la mise en œuvre des Accords en matière de santé, de Commerce, de la propriété intellectuelle et de l'Innovation, et en particulier sur les droits de propriété intellectuelle qui touchent au commerce (Adpic) est très utile.

Le monde fait face depuis le début de l'année 2020 à une crise sanitaire sans précédent, qui a pris de court les systèmes de santé les plus solides et fragilisé ceux des pays en développement. Les errements, les tâtonnements et les atermoiements enregistrés dans les réponses à cette pandémie, tout en montrant la nécessité d'une coordination mondiale, ont mis en lumière la légitimité du combat pour un accès équitable aux médicaments et aux produits de santé pour les pays en développement.

En effet, les virus ne s'arrêtant pas aux frontières, il est urgent que l'accès aux nouveaux médicaments, aux tests et vaccins à venir puisse être assuré de façon équitable, afin de garantir un endiguement de la crise au plan mondial.

Ma Mission voudrait saisir cette opportunité pour encourager le Centre Sud à poursuivre son mandat pour la défense des intérêts des pays en développement, dans l'objectif de permettre à ces derniers de participer aux négociations, mais aussi de tirer le meilleur parti des instruments internationaux existants en vue du développement de leurs Etats.

A cet égard, il paraît important qu'un intérêt capital soit accordé aux questions de transfert de technologie, des Adpic, des ressources génétiques, du développement de la médecine traditionnelle, mais aussi de la captation des flux financiers liés au commerce électronique, de l'intelligence artificielle et, de façon plus générale, aux questions nouvelles.

Enfin, je souhaite au Centre Sud un prochain quart de siècle encore plus fructueux que celui que nous venons de passer.

30 août 2020

India

MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. RAJIV K. CHANDER, FORMER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA TO MR. CARLOS CORREA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

24 August 2020

Dear Dr. Carlos Correa,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the South Centre on behalf of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva on its 25th anniversary.

1. India as a founding member of the South Centre has always been appreciative of the positive role played by the Centre in furthering the concerns of the developing countries in the sphere of multilateralism with a professional and meticulous approach. The Centre's focus on issues relating to innovation, intellectual property, global health and development, in the context of the work undertaken in WIPO, WHO, WTO and other international fora, is praiseworthy. The content of the policy briefs and publications brought out by the Centre are enriching and well-researched.

2. The global economic and political landscape is witnessing unpredictable turns and remains at an ever dynamic and volatile stage and the current pandemic has only added to those concerns. The ongoing global discourse on issues that are topical for the countries of the South needs to be closely analysed. In such a volatile scenario, the responsibility of the Centre increases manifold and it needs to adjust, adapt and continue providing quality policy inputs and research to countries of the South.

3. We are confident that the South Centre would continue to play an active role in supporting developing countries in multilateralism through its research, publications and policy inputs.

Thanks and Best Wishes!



(Rajiv K. Chander)

Indonesia



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. HASAN KLEIB,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA

South-South cooperation has been playing a major role in increasing the capacities of developing countries to attain the development agendas and also in strengthening the positions of the countries of the South in multilateral fora. This role is even more pertinent in this era, where multilateralism is being eroded and the gap between the North and the South is widening. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts further emphasize the urgent needs to pursue a more constructive and solidified cooperation among developing countries to ensure a global solution to this global challenge.

The South Centre is the embodiment of South-South cooperation as it was established based on the recognition of the need for an enhanced South-South cooperation. The Centre has been the home for developing countries to sit together, share ideas and thoughts, find common positions and pursue their best interests to attain common goals. Furthermore, the Centre has greatly contributed to the enrichment, strengthening and development of values and ideas of South-South cooperation, while also fostering common and collective interest of developing countries in international fora through facilitation of sharing of knowledge and experience, trainings, seminars, workshops and publication of thematic research in various issues.

As the Centre is celebrating its 25th anniversary, Indonesia would like to appreciate all the works and efforts made by the Centre and also to convey gratitude for all the contributions delivered towards Member States, both collectively and individually. Indonesia, as one of the founding states, has witnessed how the South Centre consistently dedicates itself to helping and serving developing countries in attaining their development goals.

Over the years, Indonesia has seen significant evolution on the relationship with the Centre which yields several beneficial and far-reaching projects. In 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the South Centre and the Policy Analysis and Development Agency of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on the exchange of experts and joint activities. This MoU has produced two workshops on Public Health and Intellectual Property Rights held in Jakarta in 2019. Further, Indonesia and the South Centre were the initiators of the “Annual Forum of Developing Country Officials on Tax Policies and International Tax Cooperation” which was firstly held in Surabaya in 2016 preceding the second annual forum in Yogyakarta in 2018.

Notwithstanding all of these achievements, needless to say, the South Centre has always been a close and supportive friend of Indonesia through numerous dialogues, policy advice and technical assistance on many international issues.

Indonesia, as one of the founding states of the South Centre, stands ready to continue its contribution to the works of the South Centre and to collaborate closely with the South Centre in achieving its mission and vision to promote cooperation and solidarity among its Member States.

Happy 25th Anniversary!

27 August 2020

Iran



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR.
ESMAEIL BAGHAEI HAMANEH,
VICE-CONVENOR OF THE COUNCIL
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the South Centre is a cherished occasion to ponder over the contributions it has made to the betterment of the South and to contemplate on the challenges and opportunities lying ahead.

Established in 1995 as an intergovernmental policy research think-tank devoted to the cause of development, the Centre has demonstrated to be a good source of insight and expertise for the South. The Centre's policy-oriented advice on a wide range of development-related issues have presented developing countries with workable ideas on how best to approach pressing development issues and to engage effectively among themselves, with others and at relevant multilateral policy-making platforms.

The Centre rightly posits itself as an authentic voice of the South advocating for the South's intellect and capacities to be in the service of development and for an international regime that is supportive of development. This voice could only be heard if it is translated into a practical unified position in support of the South's common

development interests. This should principally be shouldered by the States but the Centre's role is no less important.

While the South Centre is focused on promoting the development interests of the South, it also should keep sight of the high-speed progresses in certain areas, including digitalization as well as artificial intelligence that could contribute to further global divides and inequalities at the cost of developing countries.

The South Centre has an important role to play in our collective endeavor to address new and emerging challenges that are adding to the traditional ones and calling for our urgent response. The prevailing international climate, contaminated by reckless inclination toward unilateralism, has failed the community of States to recognize the urgency of the situation, though. This however should be a further motivator for all responsible stakeholders to join hands in overcoming the serious challenges we are facing, the COVID-19 pandemic being just the most immediate one for now. As the countries of the South bear the brunt of the pandemic, the Centre is fairly expected to redouble its efforts to provide intellectual and policy support for developing countries in addressing various health-related and economic implications of the pandemic. Ensuring access to affordable health care, including equal access to vaccines, should be among the priorities of the Centre's activities in this regard.

Building on 25 long years of rich experience, the Centre is seasoned to counsel its Member States on how to weather the stresses and strains of the challenging time the world is passing through. The Centre can also contribute to the objective of 'leave no one behind' by identifying the factors that are pushing large groups of people in the South behind. Unilateral actions and policies, including unilateral coercive measures in the form of economic embargoes and financial/banking sanctions imposed against the South, continue to pose a serious threat to development goals and violate the right to development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to advocate for a just and equitable world order where all people, irrespective of their place of residence, can live and thrive in dignity. The South Centre should further contribute to this cause by offering well thought out advice for developing States to capitalize on their innate capacity and to boost up cooperation among themselves and with the North.

30 October 2020

Iraq



MESSAGE FROM MR. ABBAS
KADHOM OBAID AL-FATLAWI, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I., PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Since its establishment back in 1995, the South Centre has occupied a special status within the Global South. The creation of the South Centre as an organization charged with undertaking the challenge of providing a platform for the developing countries to work together at the global level was a response by the founding members to the recommendation of the South Commission to strengthen South-South cooperation in international affairs.

For many historical and systemic reasons the South has fallen behind on achieving social prosperity and economic development. Systemic weakness of institutions in the South is one main factor of the disparity between the North and the South. The establishment of the South Centre was a collective response by the developing countries to fill that gap.

Sound research and analysis is an essential prerequisite for successful policy making on national and international levels, hence the importance of the role that the South Centre is playing today as a leading think-tank for the developing countries. The South Centre has been assisting the countries of the South in developing common points of view and working together on major international development-related policy issues.

Iraq has always been a strong believer of profound importance of the role that the South Centre plays to help the developing countries find the path to sustainable social and economic development. Despite facing various difficulties

over the last three decades, Iraq has spared no efforts to support the South Centre as a practical proof of this belief.

During its 25 years of existence the South Centre has fulfilled hopes and aspirations of its members through its valuable work. It has conducted policy-oriented research on key policy development issues, and supported developing countries to effectively participate in international negotiating processes that are relevant to the achievement of SDGs through organising events, producing various publications, and many other activities.

The work of the South Centre has effectively utilised the process of policy making in developing countries and provided most needed insight to policy makers, intellectuals, academia, and observers in the most relevant issues connected to the sustainable development.

The South Centre has proven time and again its relevance; the most recent example is its work on the COVID-19 pandemic. By publishing research papers and policy briefs, and organising many events to discuss and evaluate the socio-economic and health implications of the pandemic, the South Centre helped create a development-oriented narrative that can utilise South governments' efforts to put the issue on the international agenda.

Today, the *raison d'être* of the South Centre is still relevant. The gap between North and South is widening and complexities of the world are increasing. At the same time, the institutional capacities of individual developing countries to face developmental challenges are still limited. The South is still in a dire need for the work of the South Centre in its endeavour to establish the basis to achieve sustainable development.

Looking at the future, and bearing in mind the successful delivery of its goals over the last 25 years, the South Centre has the capacity to evolve further to serve the needs of the Global South. Sharing knowledge and analytical experience with institutions of the developing countries, such as, universities, research centres, governmental and non-governmental institutions through joint projects is a possible way to increase the effectiveness of the South Centre and the delivery of its mandate by assisting to improve institutional capacity of the developing countries. One other way of cooperation is to provide consultative services to governments on specific areas of interest as a direct way of assistance that considers specific national context in those countries. Fostering cooperation between national institutions through seminars, workshops and collaborative projects can also improve the cooperation among the South.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the South Centre, we commend its efforts and recognise the service that it has provided over the past years and look forward to continuation of the work of this great institution for the benefit of development and equality by keeping abreast of the rapid developments and global economic changes, studying their negative effects on Member States and finding collective solutions.

31 August 2020

Jamaica



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MRS. CHERYL SPENCER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Over its two and a half decades of existence, the South Centre has continued to be an important contributor to the efforts of the Global South to effectively promote their common interests and towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The South Centre's contribution as a Think Tank, its policy and research support and guidance have been particularly useful in assisting developing countries to bolster their participation in negotiations and to safeguard their collective and individual interests.

The South Centre is, undoubtedly, a “first stop” for new delegates to Geneva, providing excellent orientation and serving as a good reference point. Given the wide range of issues which are tackled in International Geneva and the fast pace at which the discussions evolve, this has proven invaluable to the staff of developing country Missions. Importantly, the excellently managed “lunchtime sessions” utilizing a diagnostic and solution-oriented approach, have been very effective and well supported by Ambassadors and Experts alike.

Specifically, as regards trade, as the current climate of uncertainty has permeated the WTO, putting a strain on the traditional tenets of South-South cooperation, the South Centre has

carried out its mandate in assisting members to surmount the various challenges and to strengthen the cohesiveness of the South in the WTO on matters of mutual interest. The frequency of convening meetings on matters of interest to developing countries and LDCs, the publication of studies critically evaluating long-standing and emerging issues, as well as the Organization's Staff making themselves available to sensitize and familiarize officials of developing countries and LDCs, on trade matters that are of relevance to their effective participation in the WTO, and, the participation of their countries in the global economy and global value chains, are important steps in the right direction.

As the global community continues to grapple with the social and economic fall-out linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, I commend the South Centre for its agility and responsiveness in seeking to address the needs of developing countries, which have been shown to be disproportionately affected by the crisis. Numerous Webinars have been held and publications produced by the Centre on COVID-19, addressing, among other things, access to medicines, medical supplies, and equipment and the role of multilateral institutions and agreements in shaping the international response and recovery efforts.

I applaud the Chairperson, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the Board members and the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, for their stewardship of the Organization. An opportunity is also now presented for introspection and appraisal with the objective of remaining relevant and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in meeting the needs of its membership.

Our Heartiest Congratulations to the South Centre on this significant milestone and I am confident that the Organization will continue to provide effective support to developing countries in their efforts to address emergent and multi-dimensional challenges.

I look forward to continued engagement with the South Centre.

Malaysia

MESSAGE FROM
H.E. MR. AHMAD
FAISAL BIN
MUHAMAD,
PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations to the South Centre on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

For over more than two decades, the South Centre has successfully provided invaluable expertise through its policy-oriented research to inform national policies on a range of issues for developing countries. In line with the founding objectives of the 1994 “Agreement to Establish the South Centre”, the Centre has through its activities contributed in no small measure to South solidarity, South-wide collaboration on issues of common interests and in fostering convergent views and approaches among countries in the South. Despite the diversity within the developing world and multitude of challenges faced, the South Centre has succeeded in producing broad, action-oriented research and policy guidance, which have been timely and beneficial for countries in the South to assist in addressing the myriad of challenges faced in the developing world.

This anniversary is an opportunity to pay tribute to the founding leaders of the South Movement. They came from all corners of the South. It was their vision and drive that paved the way for the South Centre’s establishment. Some of them became members of the South Commission and produced the seminal document “The Challenge to the South”. Many of the challenges identified in this important document continue to beset the developing world to this day.

Now, not only have those challenges persisted but the list has also expanded and the problems have grown more complex. In this regard, we highly appreciate the fact that the South Centre continues to bring the needed expertise, know-how and advice on these complicated and important issues, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), poverty eradication, access to medicines and how to further strengthen South-South cooperation. Since the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Centre has in the first half of 2020 organised webinars and produced various research publications, research briefs and policy reviews on the impact of COVID-19 on developing countries.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the crucial role of the South Centre in advancing the agenda of the South and my sincere hope for its continued success.

25 August 2020



Morocco



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. OMAR ZNIBER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

It is an honor to be part of this event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the South Centre. In this occasion, I wish to congratulate Dr. Carlos Correa and South Centre's staff for the outstanding work done during this two decades and a half.

Ever since its inception in 1995, South Centre, as an institution bringing together 54 members, has worked on a wide range of issues relevant to the countries of the South and the global community in general, such as development policies, sustainable development, climate change, global governance, economic and social development, South-South cooperation.

These 25 years of success offer a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the history of the South Centre and the important contributions it has made through its substantive policy research support and technical assistance in supporting developing countries in global negotiations in many areas, including trade and investment, innovation and intellectual property, climate change and other environmental issues, health and food security, and the global economic and financial system. This important role has been significantly expressed during the Covid-19 crisis which has seen the South Centre by its publications, analytical researches and a series of webinars providing outstanding materials to developing countries on measures to contain and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The excellent relations of cooperation existing between Morocco and the Centre have been recently strengthened since the visit undertaken on 2019 to the Centre by our Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and the Digital Economy and the ongoing proposals to establish a partnership between the South Centre and other Moroccan institutions and think tanks and also the ongoing process for the organization of the fourth edition of the Annual Developing Country Forum for Cooperation in International Tax Matters in Rabat (Morocco).

Today, in a world of uncertainty due to Covid-19 and the crisis of multilateralism, the role of South Centre is more crucial than before in promoting South unity and South progress, and in working collectively for improving the well-being of the peoples of the South and for a more equal and just world for all. Morocco, who always makes South-South cooperation a major pillar of its foreign policy, will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Centre in the spirit of the realization of its mandate.

It is evident that, the world and mainly the South is at a new historical starting point and is facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges. Therefore, through the experience gained during the last twenty-five years, the South Centre must constantly pursue new and innovative ways to achieve its objectives and continue to keep up with the global economic trends and to play its role as the sole multilateral intergovernmental policy research think-tank composed of and accountable to developing country Member States.

Moreover, the Centre can continue to play a substantial role in supporting developing countries to take advantage of the South-South investment potential and also ways to promote knowledge sharing and learning of some countries, particularly the emerging economies. It can also lend a hand on the sector of E-commerce, logistics and also the transfer of technologies and innovation that is particularly suited to the needs and circumstances of developing countries.

Finally, Morocco as one of the founding members has a reason to be proud of the South Centre's past and excited about its future. We look forward to continuing our partnership and cooperation, and wish the South Centre every success in the years to come.

27 August 2020

Mozambique



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. AMADEU DA CONCEIÇÃO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA TO MR. CARLOS CORREA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

Dear Mr. Carlos Correa
Executive Director

On behalf of the Government and the Permanent Mission of Mozambique, we extend our heartiest congratulations to the South Centre, for 25 years of success and the hard work consistently undertaken within the principles of international cooperation and solidarity, to improve the South to South cooperation. Organizations like yours, with an exceptional team of dedicated workers and a friendly work environment, can only aim for high results.

Working with you has been an honour and we value your role as a champion for the world development. In International Geneva, the South Centre stands tall and has become irreplaceable.

During these 25 years, the South Centre has achieved tremendous growth and has built eminent goodwill within the Member States, supporting them by defining the priorities that better serve their collective needs.

The South Centre, created to provide intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action, particularly in the international arena, has been engaged in analyzing issues related to development of the South.

We, the Member States collectively and Mozambique in particular, felt empowered from the discussions on so many issues, particularly on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Innovation and Intellectual Property, Health, Trade and Development, Finance and Economic Issues, intertwined with cross cutting issues like human rights, and the needed intertwined policies.

The large production of briefings and publications, which deepens our knowledge, assist our countries in developing negotiation skills as well as serving as a think-tank, where problems affecting the South are analyzed, experiences shared and decisions to act collectively and individually are taken.

The South Centre continues to undertake research and analysis oriented on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of our countries.

After so many years, we continue to have fruitful results in our work experience.

Congratulations for your wonderful journey of 25 years of success and we hope South Centre reaches new heights in the coming years.

We wish you all the best for your future.

Geneva, 30th August 2020

Pakistan

MESSAGE FROM
H.E. MR. KHALIL-UR-
RAHMAN HASHMI,
PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF
PAKISTAN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA



Over the years, the South Centre has served as an academic and intellectual powerhouse, not just for its 54 Member States but for the wider international community and the United Nations.

South Centre's research and analysis, technical assistance and capacity building activities in a wide array of its mandated fields have shaped perspectives, influenced decision making and provided a solid plank to build South-South cooperation.

With a team of competent officials at its Secretariat, the South Centre has always been receptive to the needs of developing countries and the Global South. Under the able leadership of the present Executive Director Dr. Carlos Maria Correa, the Centre has continued with its traditions of professional excellence and kept itself abreast of the dynamics, implications and response approaches for the Global South, given the evolving international economic landscape.

Pakistan, as a founding member of the South Centre and an ardent advocate of South-South cooperation, looks forward to further reinvigorating the Centre's role in strengthening national capacities and the development pillar of the United Nations.

As the President of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Chair of G-77 & China in New York and Geneva, Pakistan has always endeavoured to mainstream the work of the South Centre in the global development discourse. In our present capacities as President of the ECOSOC and Chair of Asia Pacific Group (APG) in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Pakistan is resolved to advancing the collective interests and aspirations of the developing countries.

The South Centre's collaboration with Pakistan's universities and institutions has progressed well. There is much more scope to be tapped. In this context, the Memorandum of Understanding signed between COMSATS and the South Centre in 2018 is a step in the right direction for launching joint cooperative programmes in education and training, STI, policy development, climate change and sustainable development.

On the 25th anniversary, I wish to congratulate the South Centre, commend its achievements and reaffirm our continued support to its objectives and programmes.

7 September 2020

Sudan



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. ALI IBN
ABI TALIB MAHMOUD, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

For a quarter of a century, and while recognizing and reflecting the diversity of each country of the South, the South Centre has served as a leading intergovernmental think tank of developing countries to exchange views and advance their common interests and perspectives in multilateral negotiations processes, particularly those which are related to development policy.

The Centre has indeed played a central role in supporting developing countries in global negotiations in many areas, including trade and investment, innovation and intellectual property, climate change and other environmental issues, health and food security, and the global economic and financial system.

Besides that, the Centre has provided policy advice, undertaken research and analysis, supported coordinated actions by developing countries in negotiating processes, and promoted South-South cooperation.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the inequities so many people around the world face, particularly in the South, and presented new challenges to the world order. In this connection, the role of the South Centre becomes more crucial to help the countries of the South in developing resilience against the devastating effects that health challenges can have on employment, vital services and local economic life.

Sudan, as a least developed country (LDC), a member of the G-77 and China, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the African Group and the ACP, has benefited from South Centre's work, through provision of substantive policy research support and technical assistance to developing country governments and their formal and informal groups, in various multilateral fora.

In recent years, diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sudan have benefited from a training organized by the South Centre through its trade program. The South Centre also played an important role in helping Sudan in the process of WTO accession, through policy advices, technical support and enhancing the negotiation skills. Moreover, the research and analysis carried out by the Centre were of great help to Sudan. As Sudan is passing through a democratic transition, South Centre's support in tackling the myriad challenges facing the government becomes more crucial.

While commemorating this special event, Sudan wishes to the staff of the South Centre, under the wise and able leadership of Dr. Carlos María Correa, all success. Sudan looks forward to closer cooperation with this great institution of the South.

22 October 2020

Tanzania



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MRS. MAIMUNA K. TARISHI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA AND VIENNA

It is a great honour and pleasure to join fellow members of the Global South in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the South Centre.

Since its founding in 1995, the Centre has become an indispensable Organisation, playing a pivotal role in contributing invaluable advancements for the development of members of the Global South including the United Republic of Tanzania.

Over the years, the Permanent Missions of the members of the South Centre in Geneva have greatly benefited from the Centre's tremendous research, advice and analytical capabilities on a wide spectrum of policy issues including sustainable development, climate change, global governance, intellectual property, technology transfer, health and trade agreements, all of which come in handy in numerous multilateral negotiating fora.

This year, while we mark 25 years of the South Centre, I would like to pay tribute to the founding fathers for leaving behind a great gem that has continued to assist Member States in achieving progress and development.

I also wish to commemorate the late former chairman of the South Centre (2006-2018) and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania (1995-2005), His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa who passed away on 23rd July 2020. His contributions, excellent leadership, and passion for a strong multilateral relationship among countries particularly those in the South will forever be remembered.

I commend the South Centre for continuing to promote multilateralism while not compromising the interests of its members especially during unprecedented challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, where collective solutions are crucial in ensuring no one is left behind.

I also urge all members of the South to continue working hard and making sacrifices while effectively making use of everything the South Centre has to offer for a progressed and developed South. After all, the “*responsibility for the development of the South lies in the South and in the hands of the peoples of the South*”. - Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first chairman of the South Centre (*The Challenge to the South*, 1990).

Looking to the future, I implore the South Centre to stay the course and to remain true to its long-term vision of working towards a World with an equitable, sustainable development of the South, based on strong South-South cooperation and a fair, supportive multilateral system. Now more than ever, the South Centre is needed to galvanise and rally its membership in the face of unprecedented challenges and threats to the rules-based multilateralism.

I would like to conclude by commending the Chairman, retired President Thabo Mbeki, the Board, and the entire staff of the Centre for their tireless efforts and commitment in fulfilling the mandate and role of the South Centre.

28 August 2020

Venezuela

MESSAGE FROM H.E.
MR. JORGE VALERO,
PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN
GENEVA

La historia del Centro Sur está intrínsecamente ligada a lo que ha sido la lucha de los países del Sur. Nace del trabajo y la experiencia acumulada por la “Comisión del Sur”, que en 1990 recomendó la creación de una Secretaría que brinde las bases técnicas que necesita el Sur para trabajar colectivamente. Sin embargo, a lo largo de su historia, el Centro Sur ha sido mucho más que una organización de investigación, análisis y asesoramiento en importantes temas de la agenda multilateral. Ha sido acompañante fiel de encuentros y desencuentros entre sus miembros. Ha sido propulsor de ideas e incansable conciencia colectiva.

La vigencia de los objetivos para los que fue creado se mantiene intacta. Estos objetivos son aún más apremiantes ahora que nos enfrentamos a un mundo más interdependiente, globalizado y complejo, que nos presenta retos aún más desafiantes. En este contexto, estimamos importante resaltar el impacto positivo del Centro Sur en la articulación de posiciones en el ámbito del comercio internacional, la propiedad intelectual, la salud, el desarrollo sostenible, la financiación para el desarrollo, la cooperación fiscal, los derechos humanos, la inversión, la gobernanza de Internet y la cooperación Sur-Sur. En la actual coyuntura de pandemia del COVID 19, los análisis sobre acceso a medicamentos, patentes farmacéuticas y resistencia a los antimicrobianos adquieren un renovado sentido de prioridad.



Hoy, la labor del Centro Sur de seguir articulando posiciones es aún más necesaria para identificar el común denominador que une a sus miembros en cada uno de los temas prioritarios de la agenda internacional. El Centro Sur es un importante aliado estratégico y un imprescindible articulador de sinergias.

En momentos en que celebramos su 25 Aniversario, queremos hacer llegar en nombre del Gobierno y del Pueblo de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, nuestro reconocimiento, agradecimiento y mejores deseos.

28 de agosto de 2020

Zimbabwe



MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. TAONGA MUSHAYAVANHU, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

As we commemorate the South Centre's Silver Jubilee, our profound gratitude goes to our forebearers who foresaw the need for an intergovernmental policy research think-tank for the South. The fact that countries of the South generally face similar challenges and experiences made them come together in forums like the Bandung Conference, which laid the foundation for the birth of the Non-Aligned Movement. Nevertheless, there was need to pull together their collective potential, expertise, and strategies in order to have a strong voice in international negotiations on issues such as trade, climate change, intellectual property and financial systems. While there were entities focusing on South-South cooperation, developing countries were at the periphery of international discussions as the agenda was shaped by developed countries. The South Centre and its predecessor, the South Commission, thus came as a boon to developing countries.

In its 25 years of existence, the South Centre has contributed immensely to building the capacity of developing countries to engage meaningfully in international negotiations at the various United Nations Organs and Agencies in Geneva and New York as well as at the World Trade Organization (WTO), through policy research and analysis as well as technical assistance. The Centre's clear development-oriented approach has enabled developing countries to strongly resist the attempts to redesign the WTO in ways that are anti-development.

Today, we celebrate the South Centre's pragmatism and ability to grow and adapt to an ever-changing world, as exemplified by its belief that it is not sufficient to merely correct international norms, but to also address national policy gaps. Over the last few years, the South Centre has been capacitating countries through policy formulation for domestic revenue mobilisation, formulation of project proposals to access crucial funding, including for climate change and formulation of legislation for intellectual property development.

During the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the South Centre has been active in providing policy briefs to Member States on key subjects such as development, trade measures, intellectual property and access to medicines and health technologies. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the issues that the South Centre has been seized with are of crucial importance and that there is an urgent imperative to address them.

The complex post COVID-19 pandemic period makes the South Centre an indispensable institution to assist the South in its continuing push for justice, equity, and fairness in world affairs.

Funding is a crucial component in ensuring the success of the South Centre and in this regard, it is important that donors and stakeholders continue to extend the necessary funding for it to fulfil its mandate.

In conclusion, we congratulate the South Centre on this key milestone and for the achievements attained to date.

8 September 2020

MESSAGE FROM
CHAIR OF THE
GROUP OF 77 AND
CHINA IN GENEVA,
H.E. MRS. MARTHA
LUNGU
MWITUMWA,
PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZAMBIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND
OTHER
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA



The relevance of the South Centre has increased manifold in recent times, especially given the increased economic vulnerability of developing countries in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and now the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and against the dwindling trust in multilateral processes and multilateral decision-making institutions.

The South Centre was set up in 1995 as an intergovernmental policy research think-tank by developing countries to work for their common developmental goals and be accountable only to them. Its primary function is to provide an in-depth development impact analysis of various proposals and negotiated rules in the areas of trade, investment, climate change, South-South cooperation, debt and finance, intellectual property, technology transfer, access to health and food security and gender-related issues. It provides support to developing countries in identifying the development policies needed for the attainment of sustainable development goals. One of the objectives of the South Centre is to build consensus and common positions among developing countries so that they work jointly on major development-related policy issues.

Over the years South Centre has proved to be a valuable institution for developing countries providing them with a common platform for discussing their interests and concerns. In particular, developing countries are benefitting immensely from the policy research and advice provided by the South Centre on the WTO issues. The developing countries need a common strategy for facing the growing challenges faced by the multilateral processes, whether in climate change or in the WTO. South Centre offers this support by providing a 'safe space' to developing countries to discuss, debate and strategise their future course of action in various multilateral processes.

The South Centre should continue preserving the institution's key strengths in the areas of climate change and international trade, while bolstering its work in other developmental processes. The Member Countries of the South Centre should therefore continue to support its work, both politically and through the timely settling of their financial contributions.

23 September 2020



MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE AZERBAIJANI CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

BY H.E. MR. VAQIF SADIQOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

On behalf of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement, it gives me a great pleasure to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the South Centre, a true and reliable partner of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Since South Centre's establishment in 1995 as an inter-governmental organization, the Non-Aligned Movement has worked closely with the South Centre in many areas such as economic, social and environmental issues in order to promote and make a genuine contribution to the key challenges facing developing countries and to a more just and equitable international order. Through its important work, the South Centre has been providing much valuable policy research support and technical assistance to the membership of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement has always been attaching a great importance to its partnership with the South Centre which received due recognition by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement as reflected in the Non-Aligned Movement Summits Outcome Documents. At the last Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2019, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement while calling upon for further support to the South Centre reaffirmed the central role of the South Centre as a think-tank of the countries of the South and emphasized its importance in enhancing South-South Cooperation through promoting solidarity and mutual understanding among the countries of the South as well as providing the intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena.

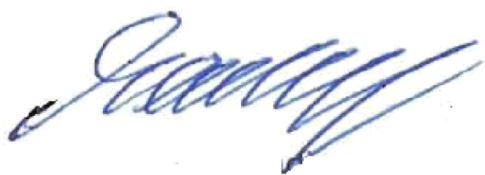
This recognition did not take place accidentally as the South Centre has always been the home for developing countries where they could sit together and deliberate on the ways to address many complicated challenges that the South is facing. The South Centre is a clear example of the usefulness and importance of the institutional support for the group action of developing countries.

Azerbaijani Chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement does believe that the South Centre could continuously play the constructive and pivotal role in assisting the developing countries to strengthen their efforts and expertise to promote the common values and interests in the multilateral fora.

It is with this very spirit that Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, is firmly committed to further strengthening the dialogue with the South Centre, which is important than ever in the face of the continuing development challenges to the developing countries.

It is also intention of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship to closely collaborate with the South Centre in terms of fostering the commonly shared "Spirit of Bandung" which this year also commemorates its sixty-fifth anniversary since the adoption.

Geneva, 8 September 2020



Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva

THE SOUTH EXISTS

BY ERNESTO SAMPER PIZANO

FORMER PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS (UNASUR), FORMER CHAIR OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

The South Centre was created 25 years ago when Colombia was the President of the Non-Aligned Movement (1994-1998) and I was the President of Colombia. The reasons that led us then, with the unforgettable President Nyerere, to its creation are still valid. I still remember our interview in the country house for illustrious guests, near Bogotá when, walking through its gardens, we talked about the common languages that people have to understand each other without the need for words. Languages such as nature, social equality and sovereignty would be some of them.

There are many reasons that should continue to motivate the important tasks of research and discussion of public policies of the South that the Centre has been carrying out under the very wise leadership of former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa. Among these lines are those related to public health, especially those investigating procedures and drugs related to the spread of infectious viruses such as Covid-19, which today is decimating, especially in the countries of the South, their social fabric and economic structure.

The South Centre must continue to lead, as it has been doing since its birth, the construction of alternative narratives to face these biological threats, especially those related to their therapeutic procedures for management and the costs of universal access to their vaccines. This is what it did in the case of Hepatitis C. As Secretary General of the Union of South American Nations, UNASUR, with the valuable assistance of Colombian doctor Germán Velásquez, Special Adviser on Health and Policy of the

Centre, we helped to implement a policy of regional access to the new and expensive medicines found for the prevention and fight against Hepatitis C.

As a scenario of reflection and debate, the Centre has understood and developed the ideas exposed under Colombia's chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) when it pointed out, in the Cartagena Summit (November 1995), where more than 70 Heads of State attended, that the end of the ideological non-alignment did not imply the end of the social exclusion, the nationalisms and the xenophobic attitudes that we fought, together, in the times of the Cold War.

Towards the future, the Centre must understand that, as Boaventura de Sousa Santos rightly points out, the South no longer designates a geographical space but a political, social and cultural space-time (La Cruel Pedagogía del Virus, CLACSO, 2020). It is a new dimension that fights against many quarantines through which we intend to enclose principles on which we build our project of non-aligned struggle. Democracies threatened by states of exception that become general rules. Pandemics that act as mechanisms of social Darwinism against the world's poor. Climate changes turned into social tragedies. Models that concentrate wealth. The "causes of the South" are everywhere today: wherever social injustice, authoritarianism, hegemonism flourish, wherever life is threatened, there the South will be. And around it we must stand united, those of us who 25 years ago decided to turn the South Centre into the factories of our dreams and the stage for the struggle for our ideals. Let us remember, celebrating these 25 years of the South Centre, the wise advice of Don Quixote de la Mancha: what is important is not only to fight, but to fight for an ideal.

Bogotá, 19 September 2020

EL SUR EXISTE

POR ERNESTO SAMPER PIZANO

EX PRESIDENTE DE COLOMBIA, EX SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA UNION DE NACIONES DEL SUR (UNASUR), EX PRESIDENTE DEL MOVIMIENTO DE PAISES NO ALINEADOS

El CENTRO SUR fue creado, hace 25 años, cuando Colombia ocupaba la Presidencia del Movimiento de Países No Alineados (1994-1998) y yo Presidente de Colombia. Las razones que entonces nos llevaron, con el inolvidable Presidente Nyerere, a su creación siguen vigentes. Aun recuerdo nuestra entrevista en la casa campestre de huéspedes ilustres, cercana a Bogotá cuando, caminando por sus jardines, hablamos de los lenguajes comunes que tienen los hombres para entenderse sin necesidad de los idiomas. Lenguajes como el de la naturaleza, la igualdad social y la soberanía serían algunos de ellos.

Existen muchas razones que deben seguir motivando las importantes tareas de investigación y discusión de políticas públicas del Sur que viene cumpliendo el Centro bajo la muy acertada conducción del ex presidente de Suráfrica, Thabo Mbeki. Entre éstas líneas se encuentran las relacionadas con la salud pública, en especial las que investigan procedimientos y drogas relacionados con la difusión de virus infecciosos como el del Covid 19 que hoy está diezmando, especialmente en los países del Sur, su tejido social y su estructura económica.

El Centro Sur debe continuar liderando, como lo ha venido haciendo desde su nacimiento, la construcción de narrativas alternativas frente estas amenazas biológicas en especial lo que tiene que ver con sus procedimientos terapéuticos de manejo y los costos de acceso universal a sus vacunas. Así lo hizo el en el caso de la Hepatitis C. Como Secretario General de la Unión de

Naciones del Sur, UNASUR, conseguimos que el Centro - con el valioso concurso del médico colombiano Germán Velásquez, investigador del mismo - nos ayudara a implementar una política de acceso regional a los nuevos y costosos medicamentos encontrados para la prevención y combate de la Hepatitis C.

Como escenario de reflexión y debate, el Centro ha entendido y desarrollado las ideas expuestas en el acto de posesión de Colombia de la Presidencia del Movimiento de Países No alineados cuando señalaba, en la Cumbre de Cartagena (Noviembre 1995) donde asistieron más de 70 Jefes de Estado, que el fin del no alineamiento ideológico no implicaba el fin de la exclusión social, los nacionalismos y las actitudes xenófobas que combatimos, juntos, en los tiempos de la guerra fría.

Hacia el futuro, el Centro debe entender que, como bien señala Boaventura de Sousa Santos, el sur ya no designa un espacio geográfico sino un espacio-tiempo político, social y cultural (La Cruel Pedagogía del Virus, CLACSO, 2020). Se trata de una nueva dimensión que lucha contra muchas cuarentenas a través de las cuales se pretende encerrar principios sobre los cuales construimos nuestro proyecto de lucha no alineada. Democracias amenazadas por estados de excepción que se vuelven reglas generales. Pandemias que actúan como mecanismos de darwinismo social contra los pobres del mundo. Cambios climáticos convertidos en tragedias sociales. Modelos concentradores de la riqueza. Las “causas del Sur” están hoy en todas partes: donde florezca la injusticia social, el autoritarismo, el hegemonismo, donde quiera que la vida esté amenazada, allá estará el Sur. Y alrededor suyo debemos mantenernos unidos los que hace 25 años decidimos convertir el Centro Sur en fábricas de nuestros sueños y escenario de lucha por nuestros ideales . Recordemos al cumplir éstos 25 años, el sabio consejo del Quijote de la Mancha: lo importante no es solo luchar, sino luchar por un ideal.

Bogotá, Septiembre 19, 2020