



**Statements made at the 21st Meeting of the Council
of Representatives of the South Centre**

11 February 2021

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This document includes the statement made by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the South Centre Board under the agenda item 5 of the meeting “Statement by the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre” and also twenty-four interventions made by member countries at the meeting under the agenda item 7 “General Statements from Representatives”.



**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE,
H.E. MR. THABO MBEKI
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE
11 FEBRUARY 2021**

Mr. Convenor and Vice Convenor,
Your Excellencies, Representatives of the South Centre
Member States,
Members of the Board of the South Centre,
Executive Director and Members of the Secretariat:

The unprecedented health, economic and social crisis that the world has faced since last year has severely hit our developing countries and undermined their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In some cases, the progress made over the last decade, particularly in reducing poverty, has been lost. The effects of this crisis have not been felt equally among all countries either. It has exacerbated the profound

economic and social inequalities affecting the poorer countries and the most vulnerable.

Developing countries in the South not only had to deal with the problems of the past but also had to face the major challenges created by the pandemic especially how to protect the health and lives of the population while preserving the economy. Governments needed to adapt and innovate rapidly in a context of economic recession and a severe deterioration of living standards.

The South Centre has also adapted to this new and challenging context. It continued to undertake policy-oriented research and to provide support for negotiations as well as technical assistance in the areas defined in its regular Work Programme. Specifically on the COVID-19 response, the Centre has also assisted its Members and other developing countries in addressing the urgent issues relating to access to treatments and vaccines for COVID-19; alerted them to intensifying trends towards vaccine nationalism; informed them about the policy space available under international law to overcome barriers to access health technologies; promoted policies to increase domestic revenues; opposed illegitimate unilateral coercive measures; and supported initiatives to expand

the room for manoeuvre to expand the manufacturing capacity in developing countries of vaccines and other products needed to address the pandemic.

As is reflected in detail in the activity reports circulated by the Secretariat, the relocation to a new office and use of flexible working methods, distance learning and technical assistance, and an expanded cooperation with institutions and scholars from and of the South, allowed the Centre to increase its research outputs significantly as well as perform training and other activities even under challenging circumstances. In particular the Centre produced a significant number of research papers, policy briefs, SouthViews and SouthNews articles, and organized a number of briefings, trainings and webinars on the COVID-19 crisis.

The South Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary last year in 2020. I would like to thank all the Ambassadors of the Member States who sent messages of support and encouragement on the occasion of this celebration. The Centre is itself a manifestation of South-South cooperation and, while recognizing the diversity in development strategies, will continue to support developing countries in the search for common ground to strengthen their capacity

to build up a multilateral system that supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is our mission and, despite all the difficulties generated by the pandemic, we shall continue to make all efforts to perform the mandate given by President Nyerere and the other founders of the Centre. For this we need your continued financial support and the cooperation of your governments, peoples, intellectuals and civil society organizations.

The current crisis has confirmed and underlined the imperative to address the systemic injustices of our times through a strengthened, fair and inclusive multilateral system. International cooperation and solidarity cannot just be proclaimed. It must be practiced. The South Centre shall continue to play its role as an institution of the South fully committed to support the development efforts of its Members and other developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Argentina

Thank you, Chairman.

Greetings to President Mbeki, to Mr. Convenor and to our Executive Director. Thank you for having organized this meeting. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Executive Director for the reports we have been presented with. Argentina has benefited and is benefiting from the excellent work that the South Centre carries out. During its 25 years, the Center has done wonderful work. The 25 years where we have seen in the world, an increase in growth of trade of many countries. But in those 25 years, we have also seen an increase in the inequalities between countries and within our own countries. Partially, it was because what was once known as the end of history where we understood that the freedom of trade, the absence of the state and the new liberal revolutions were going to be the solution for all. But when we came to understand that that was not like that, we understood that inclusion is one of the main ingredients for everybody's growth. However, it was precisely in the search for that solution that the South Center in those 25 years was one of the main think tanks that really helped us to establish our own development process, our own needs. And I think that was one of the main roles of the South Centre that is often forgotten about. Finally, I would like to say that the South Centre has dealt with issues that could be seen as a theoretical work of the Centre. Some have been mentioned today. However, I do think that that very important work is today more relevant and necessary. And I actually would say that the South Centre has been a pioneer. And as I was mentioning, some of them, I'd like to mention intellectual property given the current situation we see in the world, agriculture, human rights, and multinationals, the Centre has really worked hard on these issues, as well as, of course, everything that is linked to the institutional development of the countries in order to be better prepared for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. For all these reasons, we would like to show Argentina's continuous support to the South Centre. Thank you for all the work you have carried out. We know that you will have a very fundamental role in this world that we are living currently, would not even post pandemic.

Finally, as the Chairman of the Trade and Development Commission of the UNCTAD, I would like to invite you to support our work in order to come to the Ministerial in Barbados with a central thinking that we hope will really take us to real inclusion between our countries and within our countries. We hope that this will not be an UNCTAD conference but rather a world development conference post pandemic.

Thank you all.

Unofficial transcript

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Barbados

Chair and Convener of the Council,

Chairman His Excellency, Thabo Mbeki, and Members of the Board,

Executive Director Dr. Correa

Excellencies, all colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to say to you a heartfelt Happy New Year, and I wish you a 2021 that serves as a renewed sense of hope, purpose, clarity. And ultimately, while that allows for us to collectively chart a course of shared prosperity, whilst confronting the challenges we face head on. Allow me to also say on behalf of the Government of Barbados, that I am heartened to join this very important Council meeting. The world as we once knew it, notwithstanding its many inherent inequalities and vulnerabilities is no longer the same, particularly in the advent of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst the entire global community continues to face unprecedented challenges, there can be no doubt that the challenges faced by the global South is at the proverbial tipping point. And therefore given the mandate of this organization, and charting the intellectual thought leadership for the developing world, and providing its members with the tools to navigate their socioeconomic and diplomatic interests, this meeting's importance is therefore unlike any other in our recent history.

Chair, we, as the Global South, particularly over the last year, continue to face the global crisis and many other challenges, which invariably go to the very heart of why a strong and robust South Centre is needed more than ever before. The organization, having proven and existed just over a quarter of a century, therefore, is well equipped and placed to proceed in the interest of its members. Much of the issues that we currently confront will define our generation and arguably the next. And therefore the need for developing countries working in partnership with each other through the multilateral system is even more critical. But I go further, as the much touted and spoken of South-South cooperation allows for many of the roadblocks we face to be addressed with the right strategic alliance and political will.

The present COVID-19 global pandemic continues to dismantle the very fabric of our health and economic foundations, with many developing countries already being exposed to high levels of vulnerability pre-COVID. The pandemic has therefore ripped the proverbial banded of many deep wounds that existed. This has manifested in many ways, many of our nations, particularly smaller and developing states, whose economies are heavily reliant on tourism. I've seen massive declines in tourist arrivals, and reduced levels of critical foreign exchange. The ever continuing issue of high debt levels, and the burden of having to carry additional debt in order to procure the necessary resources to bolster the domestic realities is at an all-time high. And what is more is that this very issue is also seen in circumstances where in the advent of climate change, including the related natural disasters. The International framework of

finance that currently exists does not lend to the ideas of ensuring that the inherent vulnerabilities of developing countries are taken into account given these recurring externalities. It should be noted that the pandemic has catapulted the world's use and demand for technology and the delivery of goods and services. Many amongst the developing world face immense challenges in accessing these modes of delivery in a significant way. And the need therefore for closing the gap through the multilateral system cannot be understated with the world trade and the global economy continuing to be at a crossroads. The time to reimagine multilateral trading system is therefore upon us. And we must ensure that it reflects a new approach that allows the developing nations to have the policy space to both adapt and respond to the many challenges that already confront us. To this end, as we seek to rebuild the new global economy, we must use the current momentum of the proverbial ground zero where we are at to ensure that it is done through the lens of sustainability and inclusiveness, whilst making it absolutely imperative that there is a clear focus on building the capacity of women in business, and in particular, small and medium enterprises. It is therefore to this end that the hosting of two of the major global ministerial conferences slated for later this year will be critical. And as such, the robust and intellectual rigor of the South Centre will be of a major importance. I'm speaking namely about the 12th WTO Ministerial MC12 and UNCTAD 15th Ministerial UNCTAD15. Now as representatives here are aware, Barbados is the host of the UNCTAD15 and places significant importance in doing so, not only for its excellent facilities and infrastructure that we have in Barbados, but more importantly the conference's substance and outcome. It is therefore very timely to commend and thank the South Centre for having agreed to serve on the Global Commission for Trade and Development, established by Prime Minister Mia Mottley in the lead up to the UNCTAD15. It should also be noted that since our last Council meeting, the Commission's Chair, the Right Honorable Professor Owen Arthur, former Prime Minister of Barbados would have passed and has left us suddenly, but equally inspired by his work and vision for the global South we continue. Chair, Barbados, therefore, eagerly looks forward to continuing to work with the South Centre and its Executive Director and his team in this regard. I have commenced cross country led informal dialogues amongst the various regions and memberships at UNCTAD on the road towards UNCTAD15. Focusing on the re-imagination of UNCTAD, and ultimately ensuring that we reaffirm our collective efforts in attaining the 2030 Agenda. And with the Conference's theme "From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for All", we truly have to use this seminal moment to make this a reality. Finally, with respects to the World Trade Organization, now that invariably, we are very close to settling the issue of leadership, the appointing of its first female an African. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that our members are adequately equipped to conclude many of the outstanding issues in the WTO as well as the ongoing negotiations, including fisheries subsidies, and preparing for the Ministerial in December.

Chair, colleagues, history has shown that at our most difficult moments, we have succeeded when we rallied around a clear and focused vision. I dare say, the time for us to recommit to that ideology and ethos through the South Centre is now.

Thank you.



ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE
BOLIVIA

MINISTERIO DE
RELACIONES EXTERIORES

XXI Reunión del Consejo del Centro Sur

Muchas gracias

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia agradece al Centro Sur la organización de esta sesión del Consejo.

Asimismo, resalta la importancia de mantener las instituciones del sur global activas y fortalecidas para enfrentar los retos que tenemos delante en estos tiempos complejos que vivimos debido a la pandemia.

El Gobierno de Bolivia desea destacar y reconocer la invaluable labor de apoyo del Centro Sur en el ámbito multilateral. Sin duda la cooperación brindada a los países en desarrollo en temas como cambio climático, comercio, salud, inversiones, derechos humanos, propiedad intelectual deuda externa entre otros, fortalece la capacidad de respuesta y el desarrollo de políticas de nuestros países.

Actualmente como consecuencia de la pandemia, nuevos desafíos han emergido, la economía, la forma en que producimos y vivimos está cambiando radicalmente. El impulso que ha tenido la economía digital, junto a nuestros antiguos problemas y limitaciones pone delante de nuestros países la necesidad de realizar esfuerzos adicionales, y la presencia de instituciones del sur global como el centro sur son más necesarias que nunca para trabajar de manera conjunta y cooperativa en la arena internacional.

Para finalizar, Bolivia quisiera felicitar al presidente del Consejo del Centro Sur, Sr. Thabo Mbeki, así como al Director Ejecutivo, Prof. Carlos Correa, por la excelente conducción del Centro Sur y por su cooperación que adquiere particular relevancia en el actual contexto de pandemia.

XXI Meeting of the South Centre Council

Thank you very much.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia thanks the South Centre for organising this session of the Council.

It also stresses the importance of keeping the institutions of the global South active and strengthened to face the challenges we face in these complex times we live in due to the pandemic.

The Government of Bolivia would like to highlight and acknowledge the invaluable work of support of the South Centre at the multilateral level. Undoubtedly, the cooperation provided to developing countries on issues such as climate change, trade, health, investment, human rights, intellectual property, external debt, among others, strengthens the response capacity and policy development of our countries.

Today, as a consequence of the pandemic, new challenges have emerged. The economy, the way we produce and live is changing radically. The momentum of the digital economy, coupled with our old problems and constraints puts in front of our countries the need for additional efforts, and the presence of institutions from the global South are more necessary than ever to work together and cooperatively in the international arena.

In conclusion, Bolivia would like to congratulate the President of the Council of the South Centre, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, as well as the Executive Director, Prof. Carlos Correa, for the excellent leadership of the South Centre and for their cooperation, which is particularly relevant in the current pandemic context.

The 21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

11 February 2021

Cambodia Statement

By H.E. Dr. Poch Bunnak, Secretary of State

Ministry of Planning, Royal Government of Cambodia

Excellency Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

- 1) On behalf of the Cambodian delegates from the Ministry of Planning, designated to represent Cambodia in this 21st meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre, I would like to express my sincere thank to H.E. Thabo Mvuyelwa MBEKI, the Chairperson of the Board, and Mr. Carlos M. CORREA, the Executive Director, for their excellent leadership of the South Centre.
- 2) We acknowledge the increasing role of the South Centre at this particular time when countries are fighting hard against the spread of Covid-19 and working on their way to recovery in all societal sectors. We fully support the South Centre and their Work Program, as well as appreciate the activities done as outlined in the 2019 and 2020 activity reports.
- 3) We continue our commitment to working and strengthening the collaboration with the South Centre, and congratulate the Centre's great achievement.

Thank you for your attention.

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by China

Your Excellency Mr. Chairperson of the Board,

Your Excellency Mr. Convenor,

Executive Director,

Excellencies, and Distinguished delegates,

China would like to thank Executive Director Dr. Carlos Correa for the Report of Activities 2019 and 2020 as well as the Report on Financial Situation 2019 and first half of 2020. In the past two years, South Centre undertook a wide range of activities including research, meetings, workshops, and policy briefs in the areas of public health, intellectual property, climate change, WTO reform, etc., which assisted developing countries in forming common policies, positions and perspectives. The past year was marked by the sudden onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. The South Centre actively spoke out in global solidarity against the epidemic and upholding multilateralism for the sake of the common interests of developing countries. China would like to present its highest appreciation.

At present, the pandemic is far from over. The world economy was mired in deep recession. Humanity encountered multiple crises rarely seen in human history. The world environment has become more complicated and challenging for developing countries. Facing these intricate and complex problems, the way out of them is through upholding multilateralism and building a community with a shared future for mankind. The developing countries need to proceed with more confidence and sail on the same tack.

As the largest developing country, China has always given its full support to other developing countries with practical actions in fighting Covid-19. China has provided medical supplies, dispatched medical expert teams and shared experience of prevention and control of the Covid to more than 40 LDCs. And now we are speeding up the establishment of 30 China-Africa hospital cooperation mechanisms and the construction of the headquarter of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and facilitating the research and use of vaccine as a global public good for all developing countries. Moreover, in spite of its own difficulties, China has fully implemented the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) of G20 and put off debt repayment totaling over 1.3 billion US dollars.

Mr. Convenor,

In 2020, building on its major strategic gains in fighting COVID-19, China has made steady strides in economic development. In 2021, China will embark on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay, and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. This will bring more opportunities for developing countries to benefit from China's high-quality economic development. China is willing to strengthen cooperation and experience sharing with other developing countries to achieve shared prosperity and development.

Mr. Convenor,

As an important think tank of developing countries, South Centre has played an important role in promoting South-South cooperation and strengthening North-South dialogue. China is willing to continue to strengthen cooperation with South Center to help developing countries to fight COVID-19, promote the post-pandemic economic recovery and jointly implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We wish this Meeting of Council a complete success. Thank you all.



REPUBLICA DE CUBA
Misión Permanente ante la Oficina de las Naciones
Unidas en Ginebra y los Organismos Internacionales
con sede en Suiza

**Intervención de Juan Antonio Quintanilla Román, Embajador,
Representante Permanente de Cuba en Ginebra, en la Vigésima
Primera Reunión del Consejo de Representantes del Centro Sur.
Ginebra, Suiza, 11 de febrero de 2021.**

Estimado Sr. Carlos Correa,

Sr. Presidente de la Junta, S.E. Thabo Mbeki,

Sr. Convocante, S.E. Ajit Kumar

Distinguidos colegas,

En primer lugar, quisiera saludar al Presidente de la Junta el Sr. Thabo Mbeki, ex Presidente de la hermana República de Sudáfrica y al Sr. Carlos Correa, Director Ejecutivo. Aprovecho la oportunidad, para trasladar un cordial saludo a todos mis colegas Embajadores y Embajadoras, con alguno de los cuales he podido intercambiar sobre asuntos de interés.

Valoramos la útil información ofrecida en el Informe sobre las actividades y situación financiera del Centro en el 2020. La información puesta a nuestra disposición refleja el decidido apoyo del Centro a los países en desarrollo y a la defensa de sus principales intereses.

El 2020 estuvo marcado por los efectos de esta terrible pandemia, que continúa cobrando vidas y es una amenaza permanente, además de constituir un golpe contundente, y de manera más acentuada, contra la economía de nuestros países. No obstante, el Centro adaptó su labor y continuó aportando, de manera oportuna y permanente, valiosas reflexiones, ideas o alertas, que continuaron distinguiendo la labor de esta institución.

En nuestro caso, la Covid-19 ha estado acompañada del recrudecimiento del bloqueo impuesto por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba por seis décadas. Recientemente, hemos condenado en los términos más firmes y absolutos la fraudulenta calificación de Cuba como Estado patrocinador del terrorismo, lo cual rechazamos categóricamente.

Se conoce que la verdadera motivación de dicha acción anticubana es imponer obstáculos adicionales a cualquier perspectiva de recuperación en las relaciones bilaterales entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos. Esta fue la última de las 240 medidas aplicadas por el Gobierno de Trump, el cual arremetió contra Cuba con particular ensañamiento y utilizando una feroz campaña de difamación.

De manera particular, Cuba otorga gran valor al apoyo del Centro en nuestra batalla contra el bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos, que viola los principios fundamentales del Derecho Internacional y de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, incluyendo las reglas del Sistema Multilateral de

Comercio, y cuyos efectos, dada su naturaleza extraterritorial, se extienden de manera creciente a otros países.

Lamentablemente, este tipo de medidas coercitivas unilaterales, rechazadas por la inmensa mayoría de la comunidad internacional, están en auge en un contexto internacional en el que algunos intentan pisotear el multilateralismo y regresar a la ley de la selva.

Nuestra batalla no cesará y en ella contamos, como siempre, con los países del Sur y por supuesto con el Centro, como hasta ahora.

En cuestiones de la agenda multilateral, Cuba aprecia sinceramente el espacio regular de intercambio y reflexión que ofrece el Centro en temas de la OMC, la UNCTAD, la OMS, la OMPI y otras organizaciones y agencias de las Naciones Unidas.

Las investigaciones y análisis que ponen a nuestra disposición son de alta utilidad para países como Cuba, y confiamos en que esta labor seguirá aportando al diseño de nuestras políticas nacionales de desarrollo y contribuyendo a una posición cohesionada en los diversos foros de esta sede.

Señor Presidente,

Para continuar realizando tan importante labor, es sin dudas muy importante que el Centro Sur cuente con los recursos financieros adecuados y con expertos y funcionarios motivados y

comprometidos con los intereses del Sur. A todos ellos, nuestro más sincero reconocimiento por sus aportes y consagración.

Cuba, aún en las tensas condiciones de su economía, condicionada por la guerra económica impuesta por los Estados Unidos, reafirma su compromiso de continuar realizando todos los esfuerzos para honrar nuestra contribución financiera anual al presupuesto regular.

Como siempre, ratificamos nuestra disposición para continuar trabajando con el Centro en favor del desarrollo de los países del Sur.

Muchas gracias.

Unofficial translation

Dear Mr. Carlos Correa,
Mr. Chairman of the Board, H.E. Thabo Mbeki,
Mr. Convener, H.E. Ajit Kumar
Distinguished colleagues,

First of all, I would like to greet the President of the Board Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the sister Republic of South Africa and Mr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director. I take this opportunity to extend warm greetings to all my fellow Ambassadors, with some of whom I have been able to exchange views on matters of interest.

We appreciate the useful information provided in the Report on the Centre's activities and financial situation in 2020. The information made available to us reflects the Centre's strong support to developing countries and to the defense of their main interests.

The year 2020 was marked by the effects of this terrible pandemic, which continues to claim lives and is a permanent threat, as well as dealing an even greater blow to the economies of our countries. Nevertheless, the Centre adapted its work and continued to contribute, in a timely and permanent manner, valuable reflections, ideas or warnings, which continued to distinguish the work of this institution.

In our case, Covid-19 has been accompanied by the tightening of the blockade imposed by the US government against Cuba for six decades. Recently, we have condemned in the strongest and most absolute terms the fraudulent classification of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, which we categorically reject.

It is known that the real motivation of such anti-Cuban action is to impose additional obstacles to any prospect of recovery in bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States. This was the last of the 240 measures applied by the Trump Administration, which lashed out against Cuba with particular viciousness and using a ferocious defamation campaign.

In particular, Cuba attaches great value to the Centre's support in our battle against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States, which violates the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, including the rules of the Multilateral Trading System, and whose effects, given its extraterritorial nature, are increasingly extending to other countries.

Unfortunately, this type of unilateral coercive measures, rejected by the vast majority of the international community, are on the rise in an international context in which some are trying to trample on multilateralism and return to the law of the jungle.

Our battle will not cease and in it we count, as always, on the countries of the South and, of course, on the Centre, as we have done up to now.

On multilateral agenda issues, Cuba sincerely appreciates the regular space for exchange and reflection offered by the Centre on WTO, UNCTAD, WHO, WIPO and other UN organisations and agencies.

The research and analysis made available to us is highly useful for countries like Cuba, and we trust that this work will continue to contribute to the design of our national development policies and contribute to a cohesive position in the various fora of this headquarters.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to continue to carry out such important work, it is undoubtedly very important that the South Centre has adequate financial resources and motivated experts and officials committed to the interests of the South. To all of them, our most sincere appreciation for their contributions and dedication.

Cuba, even in the tense conditions of its economy, conditioned by the economic war imposed by the United States, reaffirms its commitment to continue making every effort to honour our annual financial contribution to the regular budget.

As always, we ratify our willingness to continue working with the Centre in favour of the development of the countries of the South.

Thank you very much.

XXI Reunión del Consejo de Representantes del Centro Sur

Intervención del Ecuador

Señor Presidente,
Señor Director Ejecutivo del Centro Sur,
Señor Convocante,

Tengo el honor de transmitir el agradecimiento del Gobierno del Ecuador por el apoyo otorgado por el Centro Sur al país, a través de importantes aportes en la identificación y sustentación de posiciones y estrategias de negociación en diferentes procesos dentro del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, la Organización Mundial de Comercio y la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual.

De manera particular, resalto la cooperación y asesoría técnica especializada brindada por el Centro Sur, en los siguientes temas:

- Apoyo a la Presidencia ecuatoriana del Grupo de Trabajo del Consejo de Derechos Humanos encargado de elaborar un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante sobre las empresas transnacionales y otras empresas con respecto a los derechos humanos. El Centro participó en las 6 sesiones del Grupo de Trabajo, así como en otras actividades inter-sesionales de difusión, debate y fortalecimiento de capacidades de los países miembros en relación con este proceso.

- Desde 2019, el acuerdo de trabajo sobre propiedad intelectual y flexibilidades del Acuerdo sobre los ADPIC con el Servicio Nacional de Derechos Intelectuales del Ecuador, el cual permite que funcionarios ecuatorianos accedan a actividades de información y apoyo en foros internacionales.
- Apoyo durante la Presidencia del G77 en el marco de la UNCTAD, en 2019, en particular en la posición del grupo relativo a Financiamiento para el Desarrollo.
- Varios elementos de estudio sobre propuestas de reforma a la OMC, sistema de solución de controversias y negociaciones en materia de agricultura, pesca, bienes no agrícolas, servicios y comercio electrónico.
- Análisis y asesoría sobre acceso a medicamentos y tecnología de innovación y patentes.

Frente a los desafíos actuales, el Centro Sur tiene un papel crítico en asuntos relevantes, como la pandemia del COVID-19, la emergencia climática, los objetivos de la Agenda 2030, la brecha digital y el comercio electrónico, entre otros.

En el marco de la COP26, los países en desarrollo pueden beneficiarse de la experiencia del Centro Sur para avanzar en cuestiones pendientes relacionadas con el financiamiento para el clima, el desarrollo de capacidades y la transferencia de tecnología en el marco del Acuerdo de París.

En las discusiones sobre el acceso a las vacunas contra el COVID-19, el Centro Sur puede contribuir a la articulación de espacios de diálogo sobre un acceso amplio a medicamentos y vacunas, en particular para los países en desarrollo. Al mismo tiempo, es necesario fortalecer el mecanismo COVAX, para que el suministro de vacunas se realice de manera amplia, justa y equitativa.

Se requiere fortalecer el multilateralismo y trabajar en un enfoque renovado de la cooperación para el desarrollo, que apoye la transición hacia una economía circular y digital, en beneficio de nuestras poblaciones, especialmente de los sectores más vulnerables.

Finalmente, el Ecuador reitera su compromiso para mantener y fortalecer los lazos de cooperación con el Centro Sur. Estamos seguros de que el apoyo técnico del Centro a los Estados Miembros contribuirá de manera importante en los esfuerzos para lograr una recuperación que involucre a todos frente a las consecuencias de la pandemia.

Gracias.

XXI Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Ecuador

Mr. President,
Mr. Executive Director of the South Centre,
Mr. Convener,

I have the honour to convey the gratitude of the Government of Ecuador for the support provided by the South Centre to the country, through important contributions in the identification and support of negotiating positions and strategies in different processes within the United Nations System, the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In particular, I would like to highlight the cooperation and specialised technical assistance provided by the South Centre in the following areas:

- Support to the Ecuadorian Presidency of the Working Group of the Human Rights Council in charge of elaborating a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. The Centre participated in the 6 sessions of the Working Group, as well as in other inter-sessional activities of dissemination, discussion and capacity building of member countries in relation to this process.
- Since 2019, the working agreement on intellectual property and TRIPS flexibilities with the National Intellectual Rights Service of Ecuador, which allows Ecuadorian officials to access information and support activities in international fora.
- Support during the Presidency of the G77 in the framework of UNCTAD in 2019, in particular in the position of the group on Financing for Development.
- Various elements of study on WTO reform proposals, dispute settlement system and negotiations on agriculture, fisheries, non-agricultural goods, services and e-commerce.
- Analysis and advice on access to medicines and innovation technology and patents.

In the face of current challenges, the South Centre has a critical role to play in relevant issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, the 2030 Agenda goals, the digital divide and e-commerce, among others.

In the framework of COP26, developing countries can benefit from the experience of the South Centre to make progress on outstanding issues related to climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer under the Paris Agreement.

In discussions on access to COVID-19 vaccines, the South Centre can contribute to the articulation of spaces for dialogue on broad access to medicines and vaccines, particularly for developing countries. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the COVAX mechanism, so that the supply of vaccines is broad, fair and equitable.

It is necessary to strengthen multilateralism and to work on a renewed approach to development cooperation that supports the transition to a circular and digital economy, for the benefit of our populations, especially the most vulnerable sectors.

Finally, Ecuador reiterates its commitment to maintain and strengthen cooperation ties with the South Centre. We are confident that the Centre's technical support to Member States will make an important contribution to the efforts to achieve an inclusive recovery from the consequences of the pandemic.

Thank you.

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Lamia Mekhemar, Director of the Department of International Cooperation for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt at the 21st meeting of the Council of Representative of the South Centre

Dear Board Members,

Distinguished Representatives,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the South Centre on its Silver Jubilee in July 2020. Since its nascence in 1995, the Center has been instrumental in harmonizing our efforts towards achieving sustainable development. Egypt has always been a reliable partner in allowing the center to fully assume its role as a policy-oriented development think tank, and a platform for our countries, to showcase their best practices in a wide range of areas in support of development processes.

In these difficult times, while Covid-19 is sweeping the world in an unprecedented crisis, cooperation among all states, especially South States takes a more significant dimension. It is against this background that our meeting today takes an utmost importance, as the pandemic has impacted the scope, pace, and *modus operandi* of the activities of the center.

Excellencies,

While Egypt continues to engage in the traditional operational activities for development, and the scope of our work has widened, we continue to strive to find innovative ways to strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and to establish partnerships with national, regional and international stakeholders to provide Southern solutions with a global perspective.

Accordingly, Egypt, in 2014, announced the establishment of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD). The Agency adopts a demand-driven approach by responding to the priority needs of the countries of the South, especially of Africa, and supporting Africa's development aspirations.

In 2014, and in Partnership with the UNDP, my country launched the South-South Development Academy (SSDA). The academy, which acts as the academic arm of the South-South cooperation, is a mapping tool to provide shared platforms of knowledge exchange and learning among the countries of the South.

In 2019, we launched the first meeting of the "Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development", a yearly meeting that brings together African heads of State, government officials, civil society, private sector, academia, experts, and free thinkers together to discuss the challenges, threats, and opportunities related to the interlinked issues of African peace and sustainable development. It is noteworthy mentioning that the next meeting of the Forum will be held on the first of March, 2021.

In addition, Egypt initiated a High-Level Investment Forum in Africa, on a yearly basis since 2016, which aims at promoting investments by establishing and enabling the environment for businesses to thrive in the continent.

And since youth are the key drivers of positive change, innovation, and hope , my country established the "World Youth Forum" which brings youth from every corner of the world to discuss issues of common interest, with a special emphasis on sustainable development, poverty reduction, and creating jobs.

Since its establishment, the "Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peace building" has been organizing workshops and training programs in the fields of conflict resolution, conflict prevention, early warning, peace keeping, and peace building, with a special attention to Africa.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) and its role in furthering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a strategic perspective and instrument to contribute to the achievement of SDGs within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, in January 2020, Egypt hosted an Experts meeting for the African Peer Review Mechanism, which accentuated that strong role that the APRM can play in the South-South Cooperation.

On the national level, my country has adopted its Sustainable Development Strategy "Vision 2030" which is a roadmap towards building an inclusive society, characterized by social protection of vulnerable groups, while providing them with the highest level of social integration, leaving no one behind.

By 2030, Egypt is looking forward to achieve a competitive, balanced, diversified and knowledge-based economy, benefiting from its strategic location and rich human capital.

In this respect, several programs were designed to strengthen social protection for the poor and most vulnerable groups. To name just a few, "Takaful and Karama", an income support program for families with children that benefits around 2 million families across the country, and "Waii وعي " a program for community development which economically empowers the poorest marginalized families, are two leading initiatives that help transfer the most vulnerable from protection to production.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt stands willing to work on exploring new horizons of cooperation with the South Center, supporting its role in strengthening the negotiating positions of the developing countries in international fora, enhancing South-South interaction, while opening innovative avenues between the Global North and the Global South, with the aim of closing the economic, technological, and digital gap.

Thank you.

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
Statement by India

Chairman of the Board, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, Convenor of the Council, Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

A very good afternoon to you all

I thank the Chair for giving me the floor. At the outset, I thank, His Excellency, Thabo Mbeki, for his inspiring leadership. I also thank, the members of the Board, for their valuable contribution. Further, I convey, sincere thanks and gratitude, to the Convenor of the Council, Ambassador Ajit Kumar, for his leadership, and contribution in steering the work of the Council. I take this opportunity, to place on record, our appreciation, for the initiatives, taken by Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, to enhance, the content and the quality, of the work, undertaken by South Centre. I thank him for his comprehensive presentation, providing an overview, of the activities of South Centre, over past two years. We support the proposals made by the Chair of the Board related to membership of the Board.

2. India has always supported South Centre in its endeavours towards highlighting and advocating specific concerns of developing countries on global issues of their common interest, taking into account the unique challenges faced by them and their unique perspectives on global issues. Covid-19 pandemic has brought to bear a disproportionately larger socio-economic burden on developing countries. It has underlined the need for collective global action to confront the global challenges that we face, such as pandemics, climate change, terrorism etc.

3. It has also underlined the need for cooperation amongst the developed as well as developing countries, to achieve our shared goal of protecting lives, safeguarding people's jobs and incomes, restoring confidence, preserving financial stability, reviving growth, minimizing disruptions to global supply chains and providing help to other countries.

4. While dealing with its own enormous challenges due to Covid-19 pandemic, India has remained committed to assisting other countries, in line with its civilisational ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam, meaning 'the world is a family' and 'Sarvodaya, meaning 'welfare of all'. While meeting our own huge requirements, we have supplied essential medicines, test kits, protection gears and medical equipment to over 150 countries, mostly as a grant. We have supplied millions of doses of vaccines

to the countries in our neighbourhood and beyond as grant. Notwithstanding our own huge requirement, we have allowed Indian manufacturers of vaccines to export them to other countries.

5. For India, cooperation with and support to fellow developing countries and sharing our developmental experience with them has been an article of faith. India has always believed that its developmental cooperation, within the ambit of South-South cooperation, should be based on partnerships, aimed at mutual benefit and mutual prosperity. We believe that it is up to our partners to determine and decide their priorities and the contours of their development projects. We have always followed this approach, which fundamentally differentiates our “partnership model” from the traditional “donor-recipient model”.

6. The priority accorded by India to the welfare of the entire world is reflected in our initiatives of International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, launched in June 2017, has functioned with the objective to institutionalize development cooperation towards the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The Fund has already supported projects in 48 countries for various SDGs through a \$ 150 million multi-year pledge by the Government of India.

7. COVID-19 pandemic has also demonstrated the need for strengthening the voices of developing countries in the global discourse on the issues of concern to them. The incisive policy analyses from the perspective of the global south, carried out by South Centre, have enabled the developing countries to develop common perspectives and present them in an effective manner. In fact, they have also enabled the developed countries to become aware of the perspectives of the developing countries. The Centre’s focus on issues relating to health, affordable vaccines and medical supplies, innovation, intellectual property, especially in context of Covid-19, and its support provided in the context of the work undertaken at various UN and International Organisations is highly commendable.

8. Today, as we prepare ourselves to navigate a post-Covid world, the global discourse will evolve rapidly to address the new and evolving challenges. The Centre faces the task of responding to the contemporary challenges and the diverse needs of its member countries. Member countries of South Centre can greatly benefit from the Centre’s policy research and insight in various fields, which are being debated and discussed at the UN and other International Organizations based in Geneva. The laws, norms and standards evolved in Geneva have a huge impact on the developmental strategies and outcomes of the developing countries and South Centre has a critical role to play in analyzing their impact on the developing countries and enabling the developing countries to present their perspectives.

9. South Centre should also look at expanding its impact globally by reaching out to think tanks and research institution in both developed and the developing countries. It should focus on utilizing various opportunities to share its findings and insights at the platforms where both developed and developing countries are represented, so that there is a greater global traction for the perspectives being evolved and advocated by South Centre.

10. We are pleased to note that South Centre has maintained a healthy financial position even in these challenging times. India has always been a strong supporter of the Centre and has been one of its key financial contributors. We are committed to continue working together with member States of the South Centre and its Team in a constructive manner so as to further strengthen the South Centre and enhance its role as a pre-eminent think tank of the global South. We are hopeful that the Centre will continue to work earnestly, as a pillar of support for promoting the collective perspectives of the global South.

Thank You Chair again for giving me the floor. I wish all the participants a very good afternoon and evening. I wish South Centre success in all its endeavours.

TWENTY FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

11 FEBRUARY 2021, 15.00-18.00

Statement by Indonesia

1. Chairman of the Board, Your Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, Executive Director of the South Centre, Dr. Carlos María Correa, Convenor of the Council of Representatives, Your Excellency, Mr. Ajit Kumar, Excellencies and Colleagues,
2. First of all, it is my great pleasure at this Council to congratulate South Centre for its 25th anniversary.
 - ➔ Indonesia, as one of the founding states, has witnessed how the South Centre consistently dedicates itself to helping and supporting developing countries in attaining their development goals even during the pandemic.
3. Since the Centre's inception, there has been growing development of relationship between Indonesia and the Centre resulting in far-reaching projects.
4. On various multilateral issues, the Centre always provides member states with needed consultation meetings, constructive analysis, thematic research and expertise.
 - ➔ On WTO and WIPO issues for example, the Centre regularly holds consultation meetings in helping to formulate not just member states' respective national position but also common position among developing countries
5. I would like also to highlight the capability of the Centre to maintain its relevance and significant role by shifting its focus to issues pertinent to the current crises such as health, trade and intellectual property issues.
6. It is also commendable on how the Centre undertakes initiatives to save costs as means to anticipate the impact of the pandemic to the financial situation of member states.
 - ➔ There is indeed a delay of contribution from member states
 - ➔ However, this does not mean a lack of commitment to contribute
7. Mr. Chairman, the year 2021 marks the final Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - ➔ Nevertheless, globally we are indeed off track
 - ➔ And the pandemic has even posed serious setbacks for countries
8. Transformation of how we address global issues must be undertaken

- ➔ Resilient recovery and build back better agenda require resetting and reinventing and not returning to business as usual
 - ➔ The existing crises must be dealt with innovative and creative solutions.
9. In hope to inspire the Centre for its future works, I would like to highlight several issues that are pertinent to the recovery efforts of member states towards the 2030 Agenda.
10. First, multilateral financial and debt system
- ➔ the pandemic has proved that the existing financial and debt system are unable to ease the financial burden of countries.
 - ➔ Sovereign debt levels were already high in many developing countries and the pandemic leaves countries with little spaces for manoeuvre.
11. Second, innovation, creative economy and intellectual property
- ➔ The creative economy remains a viable option for developing countries to diversify economies
 - ➔ Protection of intellectual property will be a main driver for the growth of creative industry and innovation leading to a more resilient and sustainable economic growth
12. Third, climate change and biodiversity loss
- ➔ Climate change and biodiversity loss are major threats to sustainable development
 - ➔ Ensuring implementation of member states' commitment under the Paris Agreement based on the common but differentiated responsibilities principle is becoming even more vital
13. Last, multilateralism
- ➔ The pandemic has shown that collective action is urgently needed
 - ➔ Resilient recovery requires building countries' confidence to the multilateral system
 - ➔ There has to be a transformation to the existing multilateral system in various issues such as trade, climate and health.
 - ➔ To this end, South-south, north-south and triangular cooperation remain important parts.
14. Mr. Chairman, there is an even more pressing issue at the moment for member states.
- ➔ and that is the need to ensure equitable, affordable, safe and effective access of vaccines of developing countries.
 - ➔ Once again, this is where multilateralism should play its role.
 - ➔ South Centre has the capacity to promote existing global collaboration and support countries to address challenges blocking the access to the needed vaccines.

15. Finally, Indonesia is of the view that South Centre will continuously play a constructive and significant role in supporting its member states to achieve 2030 Agenda and also to recover from the crises.
16. Indonesia stands ready to continue its contribution to the works of the South Centre and to collaborate closely with the South Centre in achieving its vision.
17. I thank you

Statement

By

Mr. Mehdi Aliabadi

Deputy Permanent Representative

of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva
before the Twenty First meeting of the Council of Representatives of
the South Centre

Geneva, 11 February 2021

Honorable Chairman Mbeki

Mr. Convener

Executive director

Ladies and gentlemen

At the outset let me thank you for convening this meeting and also I would like to extend my appreciation to the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, and his team for the valuable endeavors to advance the mandate and responsibilities of the South Centre, and Chairman Mbeki for his invaluable contribution to this body.

It is my great honor and privilege to participate in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre on behalf of Ambassador Baghaei Hamaneh. He was very keen to attend in this meeting but he is in capital and asked me to convey his best wishes to the distinguished colleagues in this meeting.

As a founding member, Iran attaches great importance to the South Centre and believes in its huge potentials in furtherance of our common objectives in terms of trade and development. It is in the same spirit, my ambassador took the responsibility of Vice-Convener. The South Centre has been instrumental in supporting the multilateral diplomacy.

Mr. Convener,

In the past twenty six years from its inception, the South Centre, has demonstrated as a reliable source of insight and expertise for developing countries and the South. As an intergovernmental policy research think-tank devoted to the cause of development, the Centre's policy-oriented advice on a wide range of development-related issues have contributed positively for developing countries.

Mr. Convener,

The South Centre is best placed to function as a trusted platform for the developing countries to identify their shared interests and common concerns and to explore feasible mechanisms to address them. It is an expression of enhanced aspiration of the South –South Cooperation. At this particular time and age when multilateralism and multilateral institutions are under different sorts of distresses, the role of groupings and bodies such as South Centre and G77 and China are critically relevant and vitally important.

The global spread of COVID-19 means that it is only through equitable and simultaneous access to new lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines that we can hope to end this pandemic. Given the mandate of the south centre it could play an important role in empowering the South in this regard, as the developing countries are more vulnerable and disproportionately affected by this pandemic.

COVID-19 is an unprecedented global crisis that demands an unprecedented global response. With the commitments that were made for the COVAX Facility, as well as the historic partnership forged with industry, we were supposed to stand a far better chance of ending the acute phase of this pandemic once safe, effective vaccines become available, but now it appears to fail to achieve these goals. If we fail to tackle this pandemic through this instrument, it's a policy and moral failure and the world will face with its subsequences.

The South as a victim of unilateral actions and policies in the form of economic sanctions should uphold multilateralism and oppose any sort of unilateralism especially the unilateral coercive measures that continue to pose a serious threat to development goals and violate the right to development.

Iran has always been the supporter of the South Centre and hopes that the Centre continues to play as a pillar of supporting the member states by providing them with insights and expertise needed for participation and effective contribution in multilateral fora. Therefor in spite of all constraints emanating from illegal banking restrictions, Iran paid its voluntary contribution in full and we stand ready to continue our work with the South Centre.

I thank you.

**Statement by Ambassador Cheryl Spencer, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to
the United Nations Office in Geneva
21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
11th February 2021**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

A very happy and healthy new year to all.

I wish to thank the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa for his comprehensive report on the major developments in the areas covered by the Work Program and activities of the South Centre. The report presented gives us a clear picture of the extensive work carried out by the Centre and the Organization's undaunted outlook for the future.

I also wish to thank the Convenor for his report and Chairman of the Board, H.E. Mr. Mbeki for his statement on the overall position of the South Centre including its financial standing and its future. Further, we congratulate the new Board members and commend those Board members who have been providing sterling support and service over the past few years.

Chair,

Since last year, the Covid -19 pandemic has and continues to cause major disruptions across the world with developing countries being more adversely affected. Now more than ever our countries must not only be keen on the issues in the multilateral fora but also be equipped to contribute and shape the dialogue on global recovery. In this connection, the policy and research support provided by the South Centre have been instrumental in bolstering the participation of developing countries in negotiations, safeguarding our collective and individual interests on the global stage, and providing valuable insights on matters linked to the pandemic.

As regards the pandemic, it would be remiss of me not to use this opportunity to highlight the South Center's contribution to addressing the specific needs of developing countries in responding to the pandemic. We have appreciated the webinars, briefing sessions held and publications produced by the Centre on COVID-19, addressing amongst 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.

Jamaica is encouraged by all the work which was undertaken in 2019 and 2020 and notes the plans for the next two years as captured in the Center's Thematic Work Program 2020-2022 which includes continued work in areas such as climate change and environmental issues, e-commerce, health related issues, the 4th Industrial Revolution, among others, all of which are of critical importance to the economic and social development of developing countries and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Jamaica was also pleased to have made a substantial financial contribution to the work of the South Center in 2019.

Chair,

As we continue to grapple with challenges on multiple fronts, I would like to reiterate a specific point which we had expressed in our message on the occasion of the celebration of the Centre's 25th anniversary. As the Centre grapples with the task of adapting to its fast evolving trade policy environment, I am mindful of the fact that its membership also bears the crucial responsibility of providing the Centre with the appropriate guidance and support, as it works towards strengthening the cohesiveness of the South in the WTO on matters of mutual interest, and finding convergence on other priority issues.

Therefore, we wish to highlight the importance of the Centre ensuring that it continues to promote a pro-development agenda, that it continues its advocacy, that it strives to be more

balanced, to be strategic, to ensure that it remains inclusive and is not seen as an organization for the few. The Centre must also maintain its fidelity to those aspects and programmes that assist delegations especially small delegations, non- resident delegations and capital based officials.

Chair,

Given that the Center has managed to continue its invaluable work notwithstanding the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, we look forward to the Center's support to developing countries in the preparatory process for UNCTAD 15 and MC12. We look forward to the South Center's close collaboration with both organizations as it relates to issues concerning its members.

Once again my delegation wishes to extend commendations to the Centre and it's team for the commitment to assisting developing countries with the capacity and expertise needed to promote our interests in various multilateral discussions with a view to preserving genuine multilateral governance.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DATO' DR. AHMAD FAISAL MUHAMAD
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
21ST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
11 FEBRUARY 2021**

His Excellency Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convenor of this Meeting

The Honourable Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the Board

Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by conveying how pleased I am at the convening of this Meeting of the Council of Representatives. The inability for us to convene this meeting last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that nearly two years have passed since we last met. This is but one of many casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic that we have borne in the multilateral work we carry out here in Geneva. Although we regrettably were unable to hold this meeting in 2020, Malaysia is pleased to note that the South Centre continued to carry out its mandate under these difficult circumstances. We join other member states in congratulating the South Centre on its 25th anniversary in 2020 and Malaysia was happy to provide a written contribution to the document prepared by the South Centre commemorating this important event.

2. Malaysia would like to extend its appreciation to the Executive Director for his comprehensive account of recent activities and finances of the South Centre for 2019 and 2020. Malaysia is pleased that the South Centre has continued to maintain a surplus in its finances.

3. The COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic consequences on a global scale, with countries in the developing world bearing the brunt of the negative effects of this pandemic, particularly in the loss of lives and livelihoods. According to the UN, foreign direct investment fell by 42% in 2020, while the World Bank has indicated that the pandemic and global recession will push as many as 150 million people into extreme poverty by this year. The impact of the pandemic has called into question whether the international community will be able to achieve the Sustainable Developments Goals by the target year of 2030.

4. In these challenging circumstances, the role of the South Centre is more crucial than ever, including in terms of promoting South-South cooperation. As highlighted by the Executive Director, the challenges created by COVID-19 to developing countries are multi-fold and profound, affecting all segments of the society and expected to have a lasting impact. In this context, Malaysia would encourage the South Centre to continue its enriching contribution on the promotion of access to medicines, particularly in terms of access for developing countries to the COVID-19 vaccine and developing best practices vis-à-vis vaccine distribution systems in the developing world. Additionally, we have found the South Centre's contribution to discussions in preparation and run-up to UNCTAD XV to be particularly valuable and we encourage the Centre to continue to do so, particularly in its engagement with the G-77 and China. In tandem with the move to new premises as well as adjusting to the "new normal", Malaysia encourages the South Centre to look into making the necessary infrastructural investment in view of the increase in virtual meetings, webinars and other global engagements taking place online.

5. In conclusion, Malaysia continues to see value in the contribution made by the South Centre and underline our continued support for the important work of the Centre.

Thank you.

GENEVA

11 February 2021

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Morocco

Thank you. I am the DPR of Morocco and would like to deliver the following statement on behalf of my ambassador, Dr. Omar Zniber.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

First of all, allow me to congratulate the South Centre for its 25th anniversary, the quarter of a century in which the South Centre has played a very unique role in support to multilateralism. It has provided intellectual and political support to developing countries so that they could play an active role in the global governance. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent quality of the documents that have been circulated mostly specifically the activities report for last year. I would also like to congratulate Dr. Ajit Kumar for his leadership, as well as the Executive Director, Mr. Carlos Correa for the presentation of the South Centre activities last year, and also for the very commendable work that has been carried out despite the circumstances that have had a strong impact on the calendar of meetings in 2020.

Mr. Chairman, the current political situation is unstable, especially with the current crisis as we're going through the COVID-19 pandemic that has only aggravated the situation. New major challenges keep deteriorating the digital divide, the technological dependency, the access to vaccine against the pandemic. Faced with this situation, we need to seek more constructive cooperation between the countries of the South. The Centre is going to be called upon more and more.

Mr. Chairman, the urgent need to find solutions to COVID-19 has opened new windows of opportunity for more collaboration between the countries of the South in the field of health care. In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco has been involved in regional and interregional cooperation. Our King has sent medical supplies to about 20 other African countries to fight COVID. I would like at this stage to congratulate the South Centre for the webinars that have been organized and the documents that have been published with regard to access to medicine, access to medical supplies and equipment, and also multilateralism in the context of COVID-19.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, the Kingdom of Morocco is pleased to renew its relationship with the South Centre. In this context, I would like to make a few recommendations. First of all, Morocco is determined to support the South Centre in organizing the Fourth Summit on Taxation that has been delayed because of COVID-19. As recommendation, we would also like to recommend the South Centre to establish partnership with Moroccan research centers in order to exchange documents or organize webinars or workshops in Morocco on multilateralism. Morocco has a lot of experience in that matter, especially on sustainable development, finance investments in agriculture and infrastructure. The third point, Morocco as a founding member of South Centre would like to remain committed with the Centre in order for it to realize its mission and promote solidarity among countries. By way of conclusion and cognizant of the importance of the support of the South Centre for developing countries, I'd like to say that we are ready to work with the South Centre on the two upcoming milestone conferences, the UNCTAD15 and the MC of WTO.

I would like to thank you for your attention.



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TUNDE MUSTAPHA OF NIGERIA AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH CENTRE,
GENEVA, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2021**

The Convenor,

The Chair and members of the Board

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Convenor, the Chairman and members of the Board as well as the Executive Director and members of staff of the South Centre.

2. Let me start by congratulating the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director for keeping the flag of the Centre flying during this period of global pandemic. The movement of the Centre from its previous premises to a much more spacious and comfortable office building is a further testimony of the progress the centre is making under the current leadership. My delegation also wishes to thank the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa for his presentation of a very comprehensive annual report. We also appreciate our very able Chair of the Board, H. E. Thambo. Mbeki for his speech and for bringing his wealth of experience and connections to the services of the Centre. We welcome Prof. Penina from Tanzania and Prof Christopher from Brazil as they join the Board of the Centre. We won't

forget to thank the Council and the Board for providing the opportunity for Professor Charles Soludo of Nigeria to serve his full nine-year term.

Mr. Convenor,

3. Nigeria is a strong champion and supporter of the South Centre. We firmly believe that the Centre is fulfilling the dreams of the founders to have a think-tank that can contribute to the stock of knowledge of the global south and support individual countries and their multilateral missions in the challenges many of them face in managing their engagements within the multilateral system. We can say, without any iota of doubt that the mandate of the Centre has become much more relevant with the increased onslaught on multilateralism witnessed recently. Members will continue to rely on the research and policy recommendations by the Centre in the areas of digital economy, illicit financing, debt management, Investment reforms and trade negotiations

4. The advent of Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic disruptions worldwide, but especially among developing countries, is another challenge that the South Centre should work on in order to proffer viable social economic options for member countries.

5. Furthermore, Nigeria would like to see a greater level of interaction of the South Centres with member countries at the highest level, apart from their annual meeting of the Council. This is to ensure that the Missions are better able to key into and be more involved with the activities of the Centre so as to further promote and disseminate its findings at the capitals.

6. In conclusion, Mr. Convenor, let me once again reiterate the unflinching support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the South Centre

7. I thank you for your kind attention.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement by Pakistan
at the
Twenty-first Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
(11 February 2021)
Geneva, Switzerland

Hon'ble Chairperson, (H. E. Thabo Mvuyelwa MBEKI)
Executive Director, (Dr. Carlos Correa)
Convener of the Council of Representatives, (Ambassador(Retd.) Ajit Kumar)
Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation to President Thabo Mbeki for his inspiring leadership which has kept the South Centre and the interests of the countries of the South at the centre of its activities.

I would also like to put on record my appreciation of the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa who has carried out his responsibilities professionally injected a new dynamism. We thank Dr. Correa for his insightful presentation on the overview of the activities of the South Centre in the past year.

Pakistan values the positive role of the South Centre for the developing countries. The Centre's focus on international taxation system, trade agreements, intellectual property rights, access to medicines, academic commentaries on UNCTAD, WIPO, WHO, WTO and other international organization, is indeed valuable. The content of the policy briefs and publications brought out by the Centre are enriching and well-researched.

Mr. Convener,

As we meet today, the COVID pandemic continue to pose unprecedented health, social and economic challenges across the globe. The raging pandemic warrants our collective endeavours for a more resilient, more equal and more environmentally sustainable world in line with the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For this the developing countries need to work together in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation and avoid silos and segregations. We must rekindle the spirit of South South cooperation that binds us together at the South Centre. In this regard, we propose the following priority areas:-

1. Equitable and affordable access to medicine for all: There is need of a viable framework for equitable and affordable supply of medicines including COVID vaccine to developing countries. Skyrocketing prices of patented medicines and technologies calls for a joint approach on the affordability of public healthcare.
2. Reforming International Economic and Financial Architecture: The current global economic and financial crises with worldwide impacts, have disproportionately affected developing countries, in particular, in their efforts to implement the Right to Development. Time has come to seek a meaningful reform of the existing global financial architecture. South Centre should lend its intellectual support to the ideas of creation of International Debt Authority, Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and an independent Global Credit Rating Agency.
3. Reducing inequalities through fair globalization: A sustainable, equitable recovery from the Covid-19 recession will depend upon reducing inequalities. Adapting the rules, norms and institutions to ensure that the gains from economic activities are more fairly distributed. Fair Globalization can help developing countries to implement the development strategies ranging from technology access to implementation of industrial policies through fair and free international trade regime.
4. Reforming in International Taxation System: There is a need of reform in the International Tax System, giving rights to developing countries to tax the companies earning revenues in their jurisdiction. Just distribution of taxation rights on multilateral companies is a pre-requisite for providing a longer term and sustainable revenue generation within developing countries.
5. Mitigating climate change: Climate change is a common challenge of the developing world. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is a major milestone in this global effort to combat climate change. The commitments for common but differentiated responsibility under the Kyoto Protocol are crucial for this pathway of mitigation. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient development is indispensable to the attainment of 2030 Agenda.
6. Curbing illicit financial outflows from developing countries & immediate return of their stolen assets to these countries are essential. Recent estimates suggest that revenue losses, caused by tax-motivated illicit financial flows (IFFs) alone, are in the range of \$49-\$193 billion. Clamping down on corporate tax avoidance and evasion and other forms of illicit financial flows can help both to expand fiscal space and address the inequality challenge.

Mr. Convenor,

The Global South has a shared identity, commonality of interests and a reason to work together for these similar objectives. South Centre, has consistently and diligently helped unifying efforts and expertise of the south to promote their common interests in the international arena. The support provided by the South Centre at an intellectual and policy level has helped developing countries to act and negotiate at the global stage to safeguard their collective as well as individual interests.

Mr. Convenor,

Pakistan stands ready to work with other Member States and the South Centre team in a constructive manner so as to further strengthen the South Centre and enhance its relevance.

Thank you.



PHILIPPINES

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Center

11 February 2021

Excellencies,

I wish to thank the Executive Director for his comprehensive briefing.

I also wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Philippines' support for the South Center. The Philippines attaches high importance to the South Center, along with the Geneva Chapter of the Group of 77 and China and UNCTAD, as one of the three Geneva-based institutions that are crucial to promoting the common interest of developing countries.

We entered this year eager to meet challenges to the full achievement of our 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, but a deadly virus has further derailed our efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted societies and economies. This adds a new dimension to contextualizing global efforts to build economic, social, and financial resilience.

The crisis has presented an opportunity for the international community to enhance the global economic architecture. Despite the distractions caused by the pandemic, the international community should reaffirm its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. We should redouble our efforts to achieve these goals by the end of the decade.

The interests of developing countries, including middle-income countries where 75% of the world population and 62% of the world's poor live, must be upheld if we are to build back better.

Middle-income countries (MICs) face specific issues that threaten to derail their development track. It is time for the development community to recognize that MIC issues are developing countries issues. Addressing the challenges of MIC would create safe-landing zones for graduating LDCs, while at the same time preparing robust take-off zones that will enable developing countries to escape the middle-income trap.

In building these safe landing zones and robust take-off zones, the work of the South Center is important. Its inputs on issues like the digital economy, universal health coverage, migration and remittances, and the empowerment of micro, small, and medium enterprises, women and the youth, continue to enrich the policy analysis of developing countries. They also inform our consensus-building efforts across the development sphere.

Thank you.

**Statement by South Africa at the 21st Meeting of Representatives of
the Council of the South Centre to be held virtually on 11 February
2021, Geneva, Switzerland**

Your Excellency, Amb. Kumar, Convenor of Representatives of the South Centre,

Your Excellency, President Mbeki, Chairman of the Board of the South Centre, and Esteemed Members of the Board,

Honourable Executive Director, Dr. Correa,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives,

Greetings of the New Year to all, and best wishes to the South Centre and its entire membership in fighting the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic, and pushing back the frontiers of poverty, and underdevelopment!

I would like to thank our Esteemed Convenor for organizing this timely meeting of Representatives of the Council of the South Centre.

Permit me to salute His Excellency, President Thabo Mbeki for his visionary stewardship of the Board of the South Centre, and Dr. Correa and his team for forging ahead with the work of our organisation during the past year under extremely challenging circumstances due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank the Executive Director for his Report on the Activities and Financial position of the South Centre, and welcome the statement by the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre.

As a developing country, a founding member of the South Centre, South Africa is proud to be associated with the development mandate of the Centre. The Centre is the only remaining mainstream institution that has a dedicated focus on developing country issues and a proven track record of developing cutting-edge research to advance the development interests of countries of the Global South. This mandate is more relevant now than ever before as developing countries battle the devastating socio-economic effects of COVID19, which threaten to reverse progress towards the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Covid-19 has exacerbated the liquidity challenges of developing countries. In this regard, developing country debt is a foremost concern. South Africa endorses the call for the development of a comprehensive debt framework. This should start with an across-the-board debt standstill for countries unable to service their debts, followed by targeted debt relief and a comprehensive approach to structural issues in the international debt architecture to prevent defaults.

We should maintain our unity, solidarity and cooperation as we combat the scourge of COVID-19. A better, just and fair post-COVID-19 world can only be assured through multilateral cooperation, which takes into consideration the development interests of countries of the South. In this regard, during the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly in September last year and President Ramaphosa stated, “If we are to build a common and inclusive future in the aftermath of COVID-19, it is this solidarity that must endure”.

Excellencies,

We commend the South Centre for organising numerous webinars and information sessions which have assisted many developing countries to stay abreast of developments across all multilateral fora.

We further welcomes the focus that the South Centre has placed on the issue of Illicit Financial Flows. The outflow of revenue through illicit means, drains our economies of much needed domestic resources to fund sustainable development. For instance, the African Union's High-Level Panel on IFF, which was headed by President Mbeki, found that Africa is losing at least \$50 billion annually as a result of illegal transactions. UNCTAD's 2020 Report estimates that \$88.6 billion, which is equivalent to 3.7% of Africa's GDP, leaves the continent in the form of illicit capital annually. This calls for urgent and coordinated efforts by developing countries to stop this scourge.

We agree with the report of the Executive Director and Secretariat that we face multiple challenges notably unabated inequalities, growing poverty and external debt, financial instability, unequal access to the means necessary to fight the pandemic, weak international solidarity, developed countries' reluctance to assume their common but differentiated responsibilities and the onslaught against the multilateral system and the development pillar in the World Trade Organization. Despite these challenges we must continue to pursue our core priorities of realising the SDGs through the effective realization of human rights, the provision of universal access to health, a systemic fight against poverty and inequality, and the expansion of local innovation and production capabilities in developing countries while safeguarding our policy space.

Excellencies,

As you are no doubt aware, important negotiations are ensuing in the WTO which impact on developing countries, notably on WTO reform, agriculture negotiations in the Committee on Agriculture (CoAs), fisheries subsidies negotiations in the Negotiation Group on Rules (NGR) as well as the TRIPS waiver of certain provisions of the WTO TRIPS agreement to support the global covid-19 pandemic response. It is critical that life-saving COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics should be declared a public good. We should insist on equitable and fair access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The centre should help developing countries, who are at the end of queue for receiving vaccines, with research and policy tools to counter the phenomenon of vaccine nationalism and vaccine protectionism. The menace of COVID-19 cannot be defeated in one country or region. Only a truly global, coordinated effort can result in the eradication of the scourge. No one is safe, until all are safe!

Excellencies,

The South Centre should continue assisting developing countries in implementing the outcomes of UNCTAD XIV, particularly in building productive capacities and capacities in the digital economy. The Centre should develop a programme for helping countries prepare adequately for the forthcoming UNCTAD 15, and the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

South Africa attaches great importance to the South Centre and stands ready to continue our cooperation with Centre and its membership, guided by the principles of unity, solidarity, collaboration and cooperation. We will

continue to contribute constructively to discussions and activities of the South Centre.

Finally, we fully endorse the recommendations presented by His Excellency, President Mbeki, the Chairman of the Board, regarding appointments to the Board of the South Centre. These essential appointments will ensure that the South Centre continues its development work.

I thank you.

Statement to be delivered by Sri Lanka
At the 21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Hon. Thabo Mbeki, the distinguished Chairperson of the South Center,

Distinguished Convener of the Center,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

First let me thank for giving the floor to Sri Lanka to deliver its statement.

We concur with many speakers that the Centre plays a crucial 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.

Sri Lanka being a small developing country has been immensely benefitted from an array of programmes managed by the Center, but it is imperative to flag the key thematic areas that have become the driving anchors of the center's contributions to the developing countries in Geneva. The contributions made by Trade for development programme (TDP) and Development, innovation & intellectual property programme towards building awareness are highly significant.

In addition, in the recent times, Global economy, finance and economic development programme has also become important as this programme has been able to create a platform for developing countries to engage in an in-depth evaluation of external debt issues and international tax cooperation, as these issues have become very current and contentious from the perspectives of developing country concerns.

My delegation has noticed and witnessed that the Officials attached to these programmes have managed to respond effectively and timely within its capacity and in the context of its mandate, to our demands, taking into account the diversity in our levels of socio-economic development and in the strategies we pursue to achieve national objectives.

We highly value and recognize the inputs, advice and guidance provided by the experts in the Center in all areas of the current WTO Agenda, such as, agriculture, fisheries, TRIPS, E-Commerce and international taxation of digital products, joint initiatives in investment, E-Commerce and services, dispute settlement, revitalization of Special & differential treatment principles and WTO reforms & Governance, while discharging its roles as the independent inter-governmental think-tank of developing countries in relation to international development policy-related issues.

The kind of services provided by the experts include monitoring, policy-oriented research, supporting us in international negotiations, capacity building at the national and regional levels and advocacy of pro-development approaches.

The substantive policy research support has mainly been instrumental in enhancing the visibility and negotiating capacity of my delegation in the relevant negotiating forums of the WTO. I therefore wish to place on record my delegations special appreciations to the services rendered and contributions made by Ms. Aileen Kwa, Mr. Peter Lunenborg, Mr. Abdul Muheet Chowdhary and Ms. Vivien.

As to the future of Center's activities, we urge the top administration of the center to prioritise the support being given to developing countries in negotiations of all WTO issues that are important to them. We have become aware of a tendency where the Center experts have been urged to prioritise publication of papers and give very little weight to support to negotiations. This type of a tendency will seriously jeopardise the center's relevance and visibility in Geneva hampering its ability to assist the small delegations such as mine in participating effectively and meaningfully in the ongoing negotiations in fishery subsidies, agriculture and other important negotiating areas. It would therefore be important for the centre to continue to take development oriented positions even if this may not reflect the positions of all developing countries.

Finally, on the relocation of the center to a new establishment, though we are yet to participate physically at meetings of the center in its new location, we are concerned with the distance which we have to travel to reach the new establishment. We found the access to the old establishment was very easy and convenient though there were certain space limitations, but we managed to conduct our meetings without much difficulty.

21st Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
11 February 2021

Statement by Sudan

Sudan has always been supportive of the important role played by the South Centre in addressing the concerns of developing countries in the multilateral arena, with a professional and analytical approach. The Centre's focus on issues pertaining to intellectual property, innovation, trade, global health and development in the context of the work of WTO, WIPO, WHO and other international organizations, is indeed to be praised. The policy briefs and valuable publications produced by the Centre are well-researched and very informative and educative. My country in its long and challenging journey to join the WTO has received a lot of support from the Centre. As we embark on reviving the process this year, we count very much on the Centre's support.

The global economic and political landscape is passing through unpredictable turns and uncertain times, further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing global debate on issues that are topical for the countries of the South needs to be closely monitored and analyzed. In such volatile environment, the Centre needs to adjust, adapt and continue providing quality policy advice and research for countries of the South.

With COVID-19, no one is safe until everyone is safe. Failure to tackle COVID-19 across the global South will also harm richer countries. The West's vaccine roll out must not ignore needs of poorer nations of the South. Recently, the Director General of the WHO, has warned that "self-defeating vaccine nationalism" will work to prolong the pandemic for all nations. Sudan believes that the South Centre can offer a good platform for countries of the South to share information, exchange experience and lessons learned in coping with this scourge.

Indeed COVID-19 pandemic and its impact further emphasize the need to pursue a more constructive cooperation among developing countries to help facilitate a global solution to this global scourge.

Finally, we are confident that the South Centre will continue to play its active role in providing support to developing countries in multilateralism through its research, publications and policy advice.

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E MAIMUMA KIBENGA TARISHI, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AT THE 21ST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE GENEVA, 11TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Mr. Convenor,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak in this August meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre. First and foremost, allow me to extend my recognition to Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the former President of The Republic of South Africa, and the Board Members for their Stewardship of the Centre. Allow me also to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Director and all the staffs of the South Centre for their relentless efforts and commitment in fulfilling the mandate and role of the Centre in supporting the developing countries of the South.

Mr. Convenor,

I would like also to specifically thank the South Centre for the technical support it has continued to provide its members on various issues being negotiated in the UNCTAD, WTO, WIPO, WHO, UNCITRAL and other institutions present in Geneva and Vienna. The Centre has continued to carry out its activities with high level of professionalism and efficiency despite the challenges of COVID -19. Apart from the brainstorming meetings organised by the Centre in 2020, also we have benefited from the technical analysis, research papers and policy briefs.

In this year we expect to have major conferences; the WTO-MC12 and UNCTAD 15. At the same time, we are faced with numerous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During these challenging times we urge the centre to continue working hard to provide support to developing countries of the South. A particular attention should be on issues under negotiations such as on:

- i. The reform of international financial architecture specifically on debts, illicit floor including tax evasion and tax avoidance, a mandate that should be sought in the outcome of UNCTAD 15,
- ii. The envisaged reform on WTO rules, focusing to address the underlying challenges facing developing countries from the current existing rules,
- iii. WTO TRIPS Waiver in relation to the containment of COVID-19,

- iv. Ecommerce based on the existing mandate particularly assessing the impact of the moratorium on duties for electronic transmitted goods,
- v. The TRIPS moratorium on None-Violation Complaints,
- vi. The WTO Fisheries Subsidies, reform in the area of Agriculture particularly Domestic Support, Safeguard Mechanism and Sustainable Food Security,
- vii. The reform of Investment Dispute Settlement as per the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in Vienna, and
- viii. The Issues being negotiate at World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Mr. Convenor,

I would also like to 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 people of the South” - Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first Chairman of the South Centre (The challenge to the South, 1990).

Mr. Convenor,

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to support the appointment and re-appointment of all new board members of South Centre including Prof. Penina Mlama from Tanzania. We wish the all the best in their duties as board members of the Centre.

In conclusion, my delegation notes with satisfaction the Centre’s healthy financial situation and I commend the leadership and the Secretariat of the Centre for once again running a budget surplus. The current financial health of the Centre should not lead us to complacency as we are fully aware that the activities of the Centre are solely financed from the annual contributions of members. That said, I want to assure you of my Government’s commitment to continue to fulfil its obligation of timely furnishing its annual contribution.

I thank you Mr. Convenor.



**MENSAJE DEL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLICA BOLIVARIANA
DE VENEZUELA, S.E. EMBAJADOR HECTOR CONSTANT ROSALES,**

**ANTE LA VIGESIMOPRIMERA REUNION DEL CONSEJO DE REPRESENTANTES DEL
CENTRO SUR**

JUEVES, 11 DE FEBRERO DE 2021

Excelentísimo Señor Thabo Mbeki, Presidente de la Junta del Centro Sur, Embajador Ajit Kumar, Convocador del Consejo de Representantes, Profesor Carlos Correa, Director Ejecutivo del Centro Sur, Distinguidos Miembros de la Junta Directiva, Embajadores y Colegas,

Un saludo especial desde Caracas al Centro Sur que ya ha llegado, el pasado 31 de julio de 2020 a su 25 Aniversario. Desde Venezuela, desde el Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela, queremos manifestarles nuestra felicitación y nuestras palabras de aliento para continuar la importante labor de investigación, de difusión del conocimiento y de promoción del dialogo que han tenido en estas fructíferas más de dos décadas de existencia.

Quisiera de manera muy especial, aprovechar para agradecer todo el apoyo brindado últimamente para el análisis de la propuesta de COVAX así como el respaldo a la propuesta actualmente debatida en el seno de la OMC, titulada “Exención de Determinadas disposiciones del Acuerdo sobre los ADPIC para la Prevención, Contención y Tratamiento de la COVID-19”, de la cual Venezuela es copatrocinante.

Igualmente, reconocer también la importante labor de todas las y los investigadores que llevan un monitoreo diario de la muy importante y activa agenda multilateral en Ginebra.

Quisiera, asimismo, reiterar la importancia que para Venezuela tiene contar con el Centro Sur como un importante aliado en el estudio y en la denuncia de las Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales. De hecho, me encuentro ahora en Caracas, acompañando la visita de la Sra. Alena Douhan, quien es, como ustedes saben, la Relatora Especial para las Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales en el Goce de los Derechos Humanos. Ha venido ella a Caracas para evaluar el impacto de las medidas coercitivas unilaterales, ilegales y criminales, que impone el Gobierno de Estados Unidos y otros países aliados a mi Patria, a Venezuela.

Contamos con el apoyo de todos aquellos que estamos comprometidos con la ciencia para continuar estudiando y labrando, sobre todo, en un multilateralismo anclado en la paz.

Venezuela, siempre comprometida con la diplomacia de paz y siempre denunciando cualquier intento de hegemonía como esta aplicación de ilegales medidas coercitivas unilaterales, aprovecha esta ocasión para felicitar y reiterar su compromiso con el Centro Sur. Les dejo un abrazo, nuestras palabras de aliento y, nuevamente, nuestra felicitación.

MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, H.E. AMBASSADOR HECTOR CONSTANT ROSALES
TO THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE SOUTH CENTRE

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2021

Your Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the Board of the South Centre, Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convener of the Council of Representatives, Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre, Distinguished Board Members, Ambassadors and Colleagues,

A special greeting from Caracas to the South Centre which has already reached its 25th Anniversary on 31 July 2020. From Venezuela, from the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, we would like to express our congratulations and our words of encouragement to continue the important work of research, dissemination of knowledge and promotion of dialogue that you have had in these fruitful more than two decades of existence.

I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support provided recently for the analysis of the COVAX proposal as well as the support for the proposal currently under discussion in the WTO, entitled "Waiver of Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19", of which Venezuela is a co-sponsor.

I would also like to recognise the important work of all the researchers who monitor the very important and active multilateral agenda in Geneva on a daily basis.

I would also like to reiterate the importance for Venezuela of having the South Centre as an important ally in the study and denunciation of Unilateral Coercive Measures. In fact, I am now in Caracas, accompanying the visit of Mrs. Alena Douhan, who is, as you know, the Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures in the Enjoyment of Human Rights. She has come to Caracas to assess the impact of the unilateral, illegal and criminal coercive measures imposed on Venezuela by the United States Government and other countries allied to my homeland.

We count on the support of all of us who are committed to science to continue studying and working, above all, on a multilateralism anchored in peace.

Venezuela, always committed to peace diplomacy and always denouncing any attempt at hegemony such as this application of illegal unilateral coercive measures, takes this opportunity to congratulate and reiterate its commitment to the South Centre. I leave you an embrace, our words of encouragement and, once again, our congratulations.

Statement of Ambassador Dr. Le Thi Tuyet Mai

**– Head of Vietnam’s Permanent Mission to the UN, WTO and other IOs in Geneva
at the the Twenty first Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre**

Thank you Mr. Convenor,

H.E. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki - Chairman of the Board of the South Centre,

Dr. Carlos María Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre,

Excellencies and distinguished Delegates,

1. Viet Nam congratulates the South Centre on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the South Centre.

Viet Nam highly appreciate the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre and the Convenor for steering the work of the Board and the Council respectively and the organization of the 21st meeting of the Council of the representatives of the South Centre.

Viet Nam would like to thank and congratulate the South Centre and Mr. Executive Director Dr. Carlos María Correa for the impressive amount of work of the South Centre, ranging from providing policy-oriented research on key development issues, supporting developing countries to effectively participate in international negotiating processes that are relevant to the achievement of SDGs, mobilizing the adoption of new perspectives in sustainable development, and providing capacity building at the regional and national levels. Especially, despite the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the SC has provided timely and insightful inputs for developing countries in shaping the perspectives priorities of developing countries and enhancing the cooperation of developing countries in participating in important multilateral frameworks as well as coping with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and other global challenges.

2. As a developing country that has benefited directly from South Centre’s research and capacity building activities over the years, Viet Nam highly appreciates the Centre’s efforts in utilizing its precious resources and expertise to support developing countries in our course toward achieving important Agenda of SDGs 2030, addressing the social aspects of development and human rights, providing timely information, qualified research, useful policy consultancy and diverse perspectives in international negotiation as well as promoting South-South cooperation in development and other global issues.

Viet Nam highly appreciate the South Centre and the Executive Director for supporting Viet Nam in organisation of an online training workshop for Vietnamese IP examiners in the field of pharmacy last December amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

In fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, Viet Nam has been closely cooperating with ASEAN Member States and the international community to save lives, providing assistance to the vulnerable group, promoting post pandemic recovery.

3. Viet Nam upholds multilateralism and supports the enhancement of multilateral frameworks. Viet Nam attaches importance to the role of the South Centre in promoting cooperation among developing countries, collective actions in addressing global issues for the achievement of SDGs. Viet Nam remains committed to promoting the work of the South Centre in carrying out its mandate for the enhancement of cooperation among developing countries in development and other global issues.

Viet Nam supports the South Centre to focus more attention on fostering global and South-South cooperation in ensuring the equitable and affordable access of developing countries to corona virus vaccines and other medical products in response to Covid-19, trade and development, capacity building for digital transformation and e-commerce, technology transfer, human rights and gender equality so as to facilitate the course toward building back better post Covid-19.

On the threshold of the Lunar New Year in Vietnam and other Asian countries at the moment, may I wish excellencies and all participants in the meeting a Year of the Ox full of health, safety, and success.

I thank you very much!

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR P. T. CHIGIJI, CHARGE D’AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AT THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE ON 11 FEBRUARY 2021

Chairman of the South Centre Board, President Thabo Mbeki,
Executive Director,

Thank you and good afternoon to you all,

The Delegation of Zimbabwe wishes to extend its appreciation to the Executive Director and his colleagues, for organising this meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre, given the global health situations.

We have noted with appreciation the Reports on Activities of the South Centre for the last two years. We also note and appreciate the Report by the Executive Director which captures the thrust and direction of the South Centre’s focus and direction.

Chair, we have asked for the floor to express our satisfaction with the way the South Centre is focussed on its mission, as the think-tank of the Global South on economic and social development.

What is important to note is that the focus and activities of the Centre continue to be demand driven, and benefiting us, its membership. In this regard, the South Centre has continued to be the rallying point, in terms of its convening power, and leveraged its vantage point as a market place of rich ideas and strategic initiative, to advance the development agenda of the South.

We, therefore, call on the Centre to continue deploying its research capabilities, in supporting our delegations here in Geneva on the various multilateral engagements, such as the response to the current global health crisis, IP for development, preparation of UNCTAD XV and MC12.

With all these multilateral engagements, we realise that the South Centre needs to be empowered for it to be more useful, to efficiently and effectively discharge its mandate. In this regard, Zimbabwe wishes to reiterate its strong commitment and support for the Centre.

Chair

I thank you.