



**Member States Statements at the 22nd Meeting of
the Council of Representatives of the South Centre**

24 February 2022

Table of Contents

Statement by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the Board	1
Report by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director	3
General Statements by Representatives	7
Algeria	7
Angola	15
Argentina	17
Bolivia	18
China.....	20
Cuba.....	23
India	30
Indonesia	32
Iran	37
Jamaica	39
Malaysia	42
Mali	44
Mozambique	50
Nigeria	53
Pakistan	55
South Africa	58
Sri Lanka	62
Tanzania	64
Uganda	69
Venezuela	72
Vietnam	76
Zimbabwe	78

This document includes the statement made by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the South Centre Board under agenda item 5 of the meeting “Statement by the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre”, the report made by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre under agenda item 4 “Report of the Executive Director of the South Centre”, and also twenty-two interventions made by member countries at the meeting under agenda item 7 “General Statements from Representatives”.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
BOARD,**

THABO MBEKI:

COUNCIL OF MEMBER STATES, 24 FEBRUARY 2022

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:

Once again the health, economic and social crisis caused by COVID-19 forces us to hold this meeting virtually. The deterioration of the situation in developing countries, to which I alluded two years ago, has only worsened. The gap between the countries of the North and the global South has widened. The lack of solidarity and selfishness of the countries of the North has led to the inequality in access to vaccines that we all know today.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we must completely rethink the value we place on the health sector. The billions needed to prevent and respond to health crises are nothing compared to the billions lost in business closures, job losses and economic paralysis that are the cost to the global economy of a health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The South Centre, in this second year of the pandemic, has continued to adapt and innovate in its ways to support and accompany developing countries in this challenging context.

As clearly reflected in the activity reports prepared by the Secretariat, the Centre has continued and intensified the use of virtual working methods, as well as increased cooperation with Southern and Southern institutions and academics, as reflected in the publications produced by the Centre in 2021. In the last two years, the Centre produced a significant number of research papers, policy briefs, South Views articles and South News.

In 2021, the Centre continued to support developing countries in finding common ground to strengthen their capacity to build a multilateral system that supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite all the challenges that the pandemic continues to create over the past two years, we will continue to do our utmost to fulfil the mandate given to the founders of the Centre. I am grateful for the financial support and cooperation of your governments in keeping the Centre active at this critical time.

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has not achieved equal and equitable access. The world is divided between a limited number of countries where people can protect themselves and a majority of nations where people are exposed and vulnerable to the pandemic. The longer this inequality persists, the more prolonged the current and similar crises will be in the future.

The Centre will continue to closely follow the participation of Southern countries in the various global processes currently underway at the WHO, the WTO, WIPO and the Human Rights Council as well as the climate change negotiations.

The current crisis continues to underline the imperative of a strengthened, fair and inclusive multilateral system. International cooperation and solidarity cannot be limited to announcements of the moment. They must be practised. The South Centre will continue to play its role as an institution of the countries of the South fully committed to supporting poverty eradication efforts in developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.



Report of the Executive Director on South Centre's Activities and Finances in 2021

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Members of the Council of the South Centre,

I am pleased to address this meeting of the Council of Representatives.

As we all know, the COVID-19 crisis has hit developing countries hard. While developed countries enjoyed a strong economic rebound in 2021, developing countries lagged behind in GDP growth and economic recovery as a whole, with poverty and hunger rising.

A large number of countries in the South face a very complex scenario: many are likely to slow their pace of growth. This slowdown occurs in a context of growing asymmetries between developed and developing countries in terms of the capacity to implement fiscal, social, monetary, health and immunisation policies for sustainable recovery. Uncertainty about the evolution of the pandemic may lead in many Southern countries to low investment and employment recovery, persistent social effects caused by the crisis, reduced fiscal space, increased inflationary pressures and financial imbalances.

The main lesson of the economic, social and health crisis created by COVID-19 is that the multilateral system must be strengthened and reformed to support - and not undermine - the development efforts of developing countries. The world must completely rethink the value and place given to the health sector at national and international levels. The investment needed to prevent and respond to health crises is nothing compared to the billions lost in business closures, job losses and economic paralysis that the global economy has had to face with the COVID-19 crisis.

Public health issues continue to dominate national strategies and plans as well as international debates. It is now two years since the start of the unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19. More than 5.5 million people have died worldwide; more than 60 per cent of these deaths occurred in developing countries. There are some positive lessons from the actions and strategies that worked. However, there are many negative lessons, gaps and inadequacies that the international community must correct in order not to repeat the mistakes made.

On the positive side, it is clear that massive public investment in vaccine and treatment development was the key element that enabled the world to obtain the first vaccines in a record time of 10 months. The sharing of the genome and the scientific characteristics of the different variants has also worked quickly and effectively. In terms of health education, never before has humanity achieved global awareness of the use of masks, barrier gestures and frequent hand washing in such a short time. Some developing countries - notably India, China and Cuba - demonstrated their ability to rapidly develop effective vaccines against COVID-19, while

South-South Cooperation played an important role in enabling access to vaccines and other medical products for countries facing dramatic supply shortages.

On the negative side, many problems have become apparent. First, the pandemic revealed that the World Health Organisation (WHO) lacked the necessary tools to act as the lead global health agency to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 countermeasures.

More than a year after the initial request by India and South Africa, the debate on the intellectual property waiver during the COVID-19 pandemic at the WTO (the "TRIPS waiver") is still ongoing. The developing world needed a faster response from WTO members to expand manufacturing and access to vaccines and other medical products.

The South Centre's contribution

The South Centre's approach in the implementation of its Work Programme and in its relations with its member countries is guided by the following principles: strong multilateralism, South-South Cooperation, diversity, interdisciplinarity, accountability, promotion of human rights and evidence based analysis and advice.

As indicated in the South Centre's 2021 activity report, in implementing its Programme of Work, the Centre has expanded activities of particular relevance to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, including the realisation of human rights.

The Centre has closely followed ongoing processes in the WHO, WTO, WIPO, UNCTAD and climate change negotiations, providing a platform for interaction among developing countries and has provided analytical support collectively and to individual countries upon request.

In relation to the WTO, the Centre has followed the negotiations on fisheries, agriculture and other issues, while continuing to advocate for the maintenance of special and differential treatment as one of the pillars of the trading system. We have also begun to examine the challenges posed by new proposals on environmental goods.

We appreciate the important role of the Group of 77+China in shaping the outcome of UNCTAD 15, especially as it reflects the need for a new development model, with socio-economic transformation and sustainability at its core.

The Centre has conducted analysis and provided advice on debt and financing for development. Its priority remains the reform of the international debt architecture, including bond contracts, the distribution of quotas in the IMF and credit rating agencies. The Centre will continue to support the recycling of \$650 billion in SDRs for low- and middle-income countries in need of liquidity, as well as discussions on a possible debt relief programme for countries with debt problems or high risk of debt distress.

As a manifestation of South-South Cooperation in itself, the Centre has been active in promoting greater institutional capacity to engage in such cooperation, which has become a key instrument for promoting the development of our countries.

The lifting of unilateral coercive measures that, in clear violation of international law, affect the peoples of many developing countries, has also continued to be a matter of particular attention for the Centre.

The Centre has also been active in analysing and advising on tax issues - which are central to domestic resource mobilisation - in particular taxation in the context of the digital economy. It has closely followed the ongoing negotiations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Group of Twenty (G20) Inclusive Framework (IF) on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

In the area of human rights, the Centre has continued to support developing countries, inter alia, in the negotiations for a legally binding instrument on transnational cooperation and other business enterprises and human rights, and has cooperated with the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The effective implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas has also been part of our agenda.

The enforcement of intellectual property rights in line with public health needs and access to affordable seeds, the reform of the international investment regime, including the ongoing negotiations at UNCITRAL, have also been an important part of the Centre's activities in 2021. Naturally, this is also the case for the impact of climate change, especially access to finance for timely adaptation and mitigation measures.

These are just some of the areas in which the Centre has focused its action in performing its mandate. Its activities have been carried out through its three pillars of work: policy-oriented research, negotiation support, and technical assistance and training. Much more detailed information can be found in the documents you have received.

As far as the financial situation of the Centre is concerned, I am pleased to inform you that despite the crisis caused by COVID-19, we ended the year 2021 with a healthy financial situation.

The total Income of the South Centre was 4,3 million Swiss Francs in 2021. This included around 1.9 million Swiss Francs from Member States as compared to near 1.0 million received during 2020, which was the year significantly impacted by the pandemic.

The remainder of the income was provided by project funding from various donors. The donors have shown their full understanding of the situation created by COVID-19, and agreed that expenditures relating to travel and meetings could only occur when the conditions permit to carry out the planned activities. This understanding and the increased Members' contributions allowed the Centre to end 2021 with a small surplus.

I would like to thank those Members who have made their contributions, and in particular, those who in addition to their regular contribution, provided additional financial support.

We are also thankful for the continuous contribution from the Host State.

The Centre will continue to implement a fund-raising strategy with a view to ensure financing for its activities and the long-term sustainability of the Centre.

The full details of the Centre's income and expenditure in 2021 and other information can be found in the Finance Report that has been distributed to you. The figures contained therein are still unaudited. The audited accounts will be circulated to the Members as soon as available.

I would again like to thank the contributions of our Members States. Without your continuous support the Centre will not be able to perform its mandate as an institution established by developing countries to promote their interests and support their development efforts.

In sum, the South Centre has continued in this period to actively support developing countries in their response to the current crisis and in their recovery and development efforts in the areas defined by its Programme of Work. This has been done through its three pillars of work: policy-oriented research, negotiation support, and technical assistance and training.

Excellencies, delegates, the activities undertaken by the Centre would not have been possible without the support of its Member States, organizations that fund various projects and the cooperation with a large number of research institutions, academics, UN agencies and NGOs.

Of course, it would not have been possible without the highly competent and committed staff of the Secretariat and without the guidance and leadership of the Chairman of the Board, President Mbeki.

I thank to all of them and thank you for your attention.

**Déclaration de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de l'Algérie
à la Réunion du Conseil des Représentants du Centre Sud**
Jeudi 24 février 2022, de 15h00 à 18h00

Excellence le Président Thabo Mvuyelwa, Président du Conseil d'administration du Centre-Sud,

Excellence l'Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de l'Inde à Genève, M. Ajit Kumar,

Monsieur le Directeur exécutif, Dr. Carlos Maria Correa,

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

1. Je tiens en premier lieu à souligner combien est importante et opportune cette réunion annuelle du Conseil des Représentants au moment même où la crise sanitaire mondiale n'est pas encore terminée, et où nos économies n'ont pas encore retrouvées leurs performances d'avant le Covid-19, mais aussi à un moment de grandes tensions diplomatiques et sécuritaires autour du conflit ukrainien et les risques de l'éclatement d'une guerre, dont pourront également pâtir nos pays du fait des interconnexions et des interdépendances induites par la mondialisation.

Monsieur le Président,

2. La pandémie du Covid-19 s'est imposée comme une séquence majeure de notre histoire contemporaine, au même titre que la chute du Mur de Berlin ou encore les attentats du 11 septembre 2001. En effet, outre le fait d'avoir conduit à une double crise sanitaire et économique d'une ampleur inégale, les effets de cette pandémie vont bien au-delà pour impacter probablement les équilibres géopolitiques de la décennie en cours et celles à venir.

3. Comme l'a bien souligné Monsieur le Directeur exécutif dans son rapport à notre présente session, la pandémie a donné lieu à des fractures multiples entre nos pays et les pays développés (les montants incommensurables de l'aide budgétaire des Etats développés à leurs entreprises et leurs citoyens pour faire face à la pandémie et pour la relance de leurs économies, la fracture des vaccins, la fracture numérique) qui risquent d'annihiler les efforts réalisés par nos pays en matière de développement, y compris la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

4. Je saisis l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour vous informer brièvement sur les politiques et les mesures prises par mon pays pour faire face à la crise sur les plans sanitaire et économique, mais aussi les mesures prises en solidarité avec les pays voisins affectés par cette pandémie.

5. Sur le plan sanitaire, comparée aux pays voisins de la rive nord de la Méditerranée et à certains pays africains, l'Algérie a été beaucoup moins affectée par le Covid-19. Ceci étant,

mon pays a été parmi les premiers pays africains à lancer sa campagne de vaccination contre le Covid-19 (19 janvier 2021). Après avoir importé des quantités assez importantes de vaccins de pays amis (Chine, Russie, Inde), M. le Président de la République a instruit le gouvernement en vue de fabriquer ce vaccin en Algérie. Cette décision reflète un choix stratégique de l'Etat algérien qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de la consolidation de la souveraineté économique et sanitaire du pays, en sus des autres avantages d'un tel projet pour notre pays, à savoir : le renforcement des capacités humaines, le transfert de technologie, les économies de devises, mais aussi des possibilités d'exportation.

6. C'est dans ce cadre que la 1^{ère} unité de fabrication de vaccin anti Covid-19 fut inaugurée officiellement le 29 septembre 2021 à Constantine, le fruit du partenariat entre le laboratoire pharmaceutique algérien SAIDAL et son partenaire chinois SINOVAC. Avec une capacité de production de 8 millions de doses du vaccin CoronaVac, cette unité sera en mesure de couvrir les besoins du pays en la matière, mais également d'en exporter une partie vers les pays africains.

7. Il y a lieu de souligner aussi la particularité de ce projet, à savoir que l'entreprise SAIDAL est le premier laboratoire pharmaceutique en Afrique à disposer de la licence du laboratoire chinois pour fabriquer le vaccin algérien, du fill and finish (remplir et finir) au full process (processus complet de production), facilitant ainsi l'éligibilité du vaccin produit en Algérie à la reconnaissance de l'OMS.

8. En dépit de la double crise sanitaire et économique à laquelle a fait face l'Etat algérien, le gouvernement algérien a pris, dès le début de la crise sanitaire, une série de mesures pour réduire son impact négatif sur l'économie et les ménages. A l'instar de pratiquement toutes les économies du monde, la pandémie a entraîné en 2020 une chute du produit intérieur brut (PIB) de l'ordre de 5.2%.

9. Dans le cadre de l'atténuation des impacts de la crise sanitaire du Covid-19, l'Etat a alloué des dotations budgétaires au titre de l'exercice 2021, qui se sont élevées à près de 530 milliards DA (soit près de 4 milliards USD). Le gouvernement a également pris des mesures administratives sur le filet social pour atténuer un peu l'impact de la crise sur les ménages les plus pauvres, notamment à travers l'octroi d'une prime de 10 000 DA pour les ménages vulnérables, en sus de l'ensemble des dispositifs d'aides sociales mis en œuvre par le secteur de la solidarité (allocations forfaitaires de solidarité, allocations pour personnes en situation de handicap, etc.). A la demande de M. le Président de la République, le gouvernement vient d'approuver la mise en place d'une allocation-chômage d'un montant mensuel de 13 000 DA pour les jeunes. De leur côté, les entreprises ont bénéficié de mesures fiscales destinées à réduire les effets de la crise sanitaire et les mesures de confinement y afférentes sur leurs activités.

10. Fort heureusement, l'économie nationale a rebondi de nouveau avec un taux de croissance de +4.2% en 2021. La relance représente pour l'Algérie une opportunité pour

consolider la résilience et la durabilité de l'économie, tout en préservant le caractère social de l'Etat et dans le respect du principe de solidarité qui est au cœur de la société algérienne.

11. En plus des efforts consentis au niveau national, le gouvernement algérien n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour venir en aide aux pays voisins (Mali, Mauritanie, Niger, Tunisie) pour faire face à cette pandémie, à travers l'organisation d'une dizaine d'opérations d'assistance médicale par le biais de la fourniture gratuite de quantités importantes de vaccins et d'oxygène (1,250 million de doses à la Tunisie en plus de 20 tonnes de matériel médical de première nécessité, 700 000 doses au Mali, 400 000 doses au Niger, déplacement d'équipes médicales en Mauritanie), sans oublier les opérations d'aide humanitaire et alimentaire régulièrement organisées en direction du Mali et du Niger.

Monsieur le Président,

11. Ma délégation tient à féliciter le Centre-Sud pour son rôle actif dans les débats et les processus mondiaux. Nous nous félicitons également de la qualité de l'expertise technique que le Centre-Sud a apportée aux pays en développement durant l'année 2021, notamment dans le cadre de la préparation de la 12^{ème} Conférence ministérielle de l'OMC, finalement reportée, sur des questions aussi importantes que celle des dérogations à l'Accord de l'OMC sur les droits de propriété intellectuelle liés au commerce (ADPIC) en vue de permettre à nos pays un meilleur accès aux vaccins et autres dispositifs médicaux de lutte contre le Covid-19. Les notes d'analyses du Centre-Sud concernant les discussions de l'année dernière à l'OMS sur l'adoption d'un nouveau traité international sur les pandémies et/ou la réforme du Règlement sanitaire international (RSI) ont tout aussi attiré notre attention.

Monsieur le Président,

12. Membre fondateur du Centre-Sud, l'Algérie accorde une importance particulière à la relance de la coopération bilatérale en vue de bénéficier de son expertise pour le renforcement de ses capacités humaines et techniques pour mener à bien son vaste chantier de modernisation et de diversification de son économie. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous inviter à effectuer une visite de travail dans mon pays dès que possible.

Monsieur le Président,

13. Avant de conclure mon intervention, je souhaiterais partager avec vous certaines idées et propositions qui pourraient constituer des pistes de réflexion en vue d'accroître la visibilité, la présence et l'influence du Centre-Sud au bénéfice de ses membres et de l'ensemble des pays du G-77 plus la Chine. Il s'agit :

- d'élaborer et mettre en œuvre une campagne d'information et d'advocacy pour inciter les pays en développement non encore membres d'adhérer au Centre-Sud. Avec seulement 54 pays qui en sont membres sur les 134 pays qui composent le G-77 plus la Chine, des efforts importants restent à faire pour élargir le membership du Centre et l'ériger en véritable

plateforme de réflexion et d'action stratégique, d'échanges d'idées et d'expériences pour le renforcement de la coopération sud-sud, et de solidarité entre les pays en développement. L'élargissement du Centre aurait aussi des effets positifs sur le Centre lui-même en termes de plus grandes ressources financières, à même de lui permettre de mieux remplir son mandat.

- d'examiner la possibilité d'une participation plus visible et plus active du Centre-Sud lors des Sommets politiques et économiques entre les pays en développement, comme le Sommet du G-77 + Chine ou les Conférences au sommet du Mouvement des non-alignés, mais aussi dans le cadre des grandes conférences internationales sur le commerce, le climat, la santé, le développement, en apportant la valeur ajoutée intellectuelle du Centre sur les grandes problématiques de la gouvernance mondiale, les défis auxquels font face les pays du sud, mais aussi les opportunités qui s'offrent à eux dans un monde où les rapports de force stratégiques et économiques connaissent des changements sans précédents sur fond de remise en cause de la hiérarchie des puissances héritée de la fin de la 2^{ème} Guerre mondiale.

- dans le même ordre d'idées, il serait souhaitable que le Centre-Sud puisse engager des actions de collaboration et de coopération avec des centres similaires situés dans nos pays.

- de moderniser et d'adapter les méthodes de travail et les ressources du Centre-Sud aux défis du monde post-pandémique. A ce sujet, ma délégation propose de lancer une réflexion sur la possibilité de restructurer le Secrétariat autour des grandes problématiques contemporaines comme : le réchauffement climatique et la dégradation de l'environnement, les dynamiques et les risques de la mondialisation, la santé mondiale, les questions de paix et de sécurité, la place des pays du sud dans le nouvel ordre technologiques.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

MPAG/22 février 2022

**Statement of His Excellency the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria
at the Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Your Excellency President Thabo Mvuyelwa, Chairman of the South Centre Board

Your Excellency Ambassador Mr. Ajit Kumar,

Mr. Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Maria Correa,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I would first like to stress the importance and timeliness of this annual meeting of the Council of Representatives at a time when the global health crisis is not yet over and our economies have not yet recovered their pre-Covid-19 performance, but also at a time of great diplomatic and security tensions surrounding the Ukrainian conflict and the risk of the outbreak of a war, which could also affect our countries because of the interconnections and interdependencies brought about by globalization.

Mr. President,

2. The Covid-19 pandemic has become a major event in our contemporary history, just like the fall of the Berlin Wall or the attacks of September 11, 2001. Indeed, in addition to having led to a double health and economic crisis of unequal scope, the effects of this pandemic go far beyond and probably impact the geopolitical balance of the current decade and those to come.

3. As the Executive Director pointed out in his report to this session, the pandemic has created multiple divides between our countries and the developed countries (the immeasurable amounts of budgetary aid provided by the developed countries to their companies and citizens to cope with the pandemic and to revive their economies, the vaccine divide, the digital divide), which may well undermine the efforts made by our countries in the area of development, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly inform you about the policies and measures taken by my country to address the health and economic crisis, as well as the measures taken in solidarity with neighboring countries affected by this pandemic.

5. In terms of health, compared to neighboring countries on the northern shore of the Mediterranean and some African countries, Algeria has been much less affected by Covid-19. That said, my country was among the first African countries to launch its vaccination campaign against Covid-19 (January 19, 2021). After importing fairly large quantities of vaccine from friendly countries (China, Russia, India), the President of the Republic instructed the government to manufacture this vaccine in Algeria. This decision reflects a strategic choice of the Algerian State which is part of the consolidation of the economic and health sovereignty of the country, in addition to the other advantages of such a project for our country, namely: the reinforcement of human capacities, the transfer of technology, foreign currency savings, but also export opportunities.

6. It is within this framework that the 1st manufacturing unit of Covid-19 vaccine was officially inaugurated on September 29, 2021 in Constantine, the fruit of the partnership between the Algerian pharmaceutical laboratory SAIDAL and its Chinese partner SINOVAC. With a production capacity of 8 million doses of CoronaVac vaccine, this unit will be able to cover the country's needs in this area, but also to export part of it to African countries.

7. It should also be noted that this project is unique in that SAIDAL is the first pharmaceutical laboratory in Africa to be licensed by the Chinese laboratory to manufacture the Algerian vaccine, from fill and finish to full process, thus facilitating the eligibility of the Algerian-produced vaccine for WHO recognition.

8. Despite the dual health and economic crisis faced by the Algerian government, the government took a series of measures from the beginning of the health crisis to reduce its negative impact on the economy and households. As in almost all economies in the world, the pandemic has led to a drop in gross domestic product (GDP) of around 5.2% in 2020.

9. As part of the mitigation of the impacts of the Covid-19 health crisis, the state has allocated budgetary allocations for the 2021 fiscal year, which amounted to nearly 530 billion DA (or nearly 4 billion USD). The government has also taken administrative measures on the social net to mitigate some of the impact of the crisis on the poorest households, including through the granting of a bonus of 10,000 DA for vulnerable households, in addition to all the social assistance schemes implemented by the solidarity sector (flat-rate solidarity allowances, allowances for people with disabilities, etc.). At the request of the President of the Republic, the government has just approved the establishment of a monthly unemployment allowance of 13,000 DA for young people. For their part, companies have benefited from fiscal measures designed to reduce the effects of the health crisis and the related containment measures on their activities.

10. Fortunately, the national economy has rebounded again with a growth rate of +4.2% in 2021. The recovery represents an opportunity for Algeria to consolidate the resilience and sustainability of the economy, while preserving the social character of the state and respecting the principle of solidarity that is at the heart of Algerian society.

11. In addition to the efforts made at the national level, the Algerian government has spared no effort to help neighboring countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Tunisia) to cope with this pandemic, through the organization of a dozen operations of medical assistance through the provision of free quantities of vaccines and oxygen (1, 250 million doses to Tunisia in addition to 20 tons of essential medical equipment, 700,000 doses to Mali, 400,000 doses to Niger, and the relocation of medical teams in Mauritania), not to mention the humanitarian and food aid operations regularly organized in Mali and Niger.

Mr. President,

11. My delegation would like to commend the South Centre for its active role in global debates and processes. We also commend the quality of the technical expertise that the South-Central provided to developing countries during 2021, particularly in preparation for the ultimately postponed 12th WTO Ministerial Conference on such important issues as waivers to the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to allow our countries greater access to vaccines and other medical devices for the control of Covid-19. The South Centre's analysis notes on last year's discussions at the WHO on the adoption of a new international treaty on pandemics and/or reform of the International Health Regulations (IHR) also caught our attention.

Mr. President,

12. As a founding member of the Centre-Sud, Algeria attaches particular importance to the revival of bilateral cooperation in order to benefit from its expertise in strengthening its human and technical capacities to carry out its vast project of modernization and diversification of its economy. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to make a working visit to my country as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

13. Before concluding my speech, I would like to share with you some ideas and proposals that could constitute avenues of reflection with a view to increasing the visibility, presence

and influence of the South Centre for the benefit of its members and of all the G-77 countries plus China. This involves :

- Develop and implement an information and advocacy campaign to encourage developing countries that are not yet members to join the South Centre. With only 54 countries that are members out of the 134 countries that make up the G-77 plus China, major efforts are still needed to expand the Centre's membership and establish it as a true platform for reflection and strategic action, for the exchange of ideas and experiences for the strengthening of South-South cooperation, and for solidarity among developing countries. The enlargement of the Centre would also have positive effects on the Centre itself in terms of greater financial resources, which would enable it to better fulfill its mandate.

- examining the possibility of a more visible and active participation of the South Centre in political and economic summits among developing countries, such as the G-77 + China Summit or the Summit Conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement, but also in the framework of major international conferences on trade, climate, health, development, by bringing the intellectual added value of the Centre to bear on the major issues of global governance, the challenges facing the countries of the South, but also the opportunities available to them in a world where the strategic and economic balance of power is undergoing unprecedented changes against the backdrop of the questioning of the hierarchy of powers inherited from the end of the Second World War.

- In the same vein, it would be desirable for the South Centre to engage in collaboration and cooperation with similar centers located in our countries.

- to modernize and adapt the working methods and resources of the South Centre to the challenges of the post-pandemic world. In this regard, my delegation proposes to launch a reflection on the possibility of restructuring the Secretariat around major contemporary issues such as: global warming and environmental degradation, the dynamics and risks of globalization, global health, peace and security issues, and the place of countries of the South in the new technological order.

Thank you for your kind attention.

MPAG/22 February 2022



Mission Permanente
de la République d'Angola
Genève

**22TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE SOUTH CENTER**

24.02.2022

ANGOLAN STATEMENT

by

**Her Excellency Mrs. Margarida Izata
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Angola in Geneva**

Mr. Convenor and Vice Convenor,

Your Excellencies, Representatives of the South Center Member States,
Members of the Board,
Executive Director,

Today, there is no doubt that the World continues to deal with the devastating economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In some regions, the progress made over the last decade, particularly in reducing poverty, as well as clear commitments aimed at implementing the main challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, have been lost.

Unfortunately, Angola has not been spared. Therefore, we share the need of countries from the South to adapt and innovate rapidly in this new context of weakening of economic indicators and a significant deterioration of living standards. Alone, one can go faster, but together we can go further.

The South Center should continue to assist its members, and the world at large, in addressing the urgent issues related to the pandemic and its consequences. The objectives that have been in the constitution of the South Center going back to 1995, remain current. The importance of establishing mechanisms to facilitate and promote South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation on a South-Wide basis is an imperative, as well as the need to make those mechanisms more flexible, more efficient and more result-oriented. As stated recently by the President of the AU Commission in Brussels, and I quote, "We must now go well beyond the mere theoretical and incantatory formulation of our relevant priorities".

Therefore, we believe that in Africa, we must drive the economic integration of the continent. The full implementation of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA)** has the potential to promote Africa's development including through i) regulating and strengthening policy areas such as trade facilitation and services, intellectual property rights, investment and competition and rules of origin; ii) stimulating economic diversification; iii) promoting wider and deeper regional value chains and iv) eliminating tariffs on goods from least developed countries.

To conclude your Excellencies, Angola would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Center, through Director Correia, for all the support on the implementation of projects at national level that will make a direct impact on people's lives. Angola is a country in the process of graduation from the LDC status and we therefore call on the South Center to join the other institutions, including the UN system, that are sparing no efforts in assisting financially and strategically graduating LDCs in their route to **LDCV** to be held in Qatar next year.

I thank you for your kind attention.

22nd Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Argentina

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Correa, and to all the ambassadors who took the floor ahead of me and all those who are listening, I will not take up too much of your time since much of what I want to say has already been mentioned by the previous delegations.

First of all, we'd like to thank the South Centre for all its continuous work and the support to all our delegations on the important issues for my country as well as others. As it has been mentioned by the previous speakers, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of the existing challenges and created new vulnerabilities, especially for developing countries. If we add to this, the structural challenges that many of our countries already had, the economic pressure that has been derived from the COVID pandemic has really challenged us when it comes to the liquidity of our budgets. And as it was mentioned by Dr. Correa in his presentation, the weakness of the international financial architecture which does not have the necessary tools for the debt crisis has been made even more obvious in recent times. And that is why the work that we do and the work that the Centre does are so important. We want to thank them for all information that they're continuously forwarding to us. The information, for example, about the finances of the Centre was extremely valuable. We want to thank the Centre for its support and cooperation provided by the entire team throughout the pandemic which was absolutely essential for Argentina. The South Centre's work is absolutely essential on the issues such as financing for development, debts, trade, Intellectual Property, the TRIPS Agreement, fisheries negotiations as well as investment. We also want to thank the Centre for all the support and work they carried out regarding the vaccine waiver, and everything that was done to promote an understanding and a vision that would promote a fair and equitable access to vaccines, which is essential right now.

I'm not going to take up any more of your time, and just end by transmitting the greetings of my Ambassador who is now chairing the Human Rights Council, and therefore, sadly, could not join us today. And with that, I want to thank you once again.

Consejo de Estados Miembros del South Centre

Intervención del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

S.E. Emb. Maira Mariela Macdonal

Gracias Sr. Presidente

Primero que todo queremos agradecer el informe de actividades y el informe sobre la actividad financiera del South Centre presentados en esta sesión.

Sr. Presidente,

- Hoy con la digitalización de la economía y la vida humana las relaciones multilaterales se hacen cada vez más desafiantes para los países en desarrollo. Los cambios devienen más vertiginosos y requieren un mayor esfuerzo de nuestros países para responder a los desafíos de manera oportuna y precisa. En adición, la crisis socioeconómica y de salud causada por el COVID19 y la crisis climática ha puesto a muchos de nuestros países en situaciones realmente difíciles.
- En este complejo contexto el South Centre ha sido una fuente información y de apoyo en muchos temas de la agenda internacional aquí en Ginebra y en otros foros multilaterales que pone de relieve la importancia de tener instituciones del sur global. Construir instituciones del sur global y permanecer relevante no es una tarea sencilla. El South Centre es una de las pocas instituciones de los países en desarrollo que contribución a que los intereses del sur se reflejen en la arena internacional.
- La Misión Permanente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en Ginebra frecuentemente recibe las contribuciones del South Centre en varias materias. Pero, además, con el apoyo del South Centre el Gobierno de Bolivia ha desarrollado algunas actividades de interés para nosotros en temas como el acceso a las vacunas y la excepción a las patentes en la OMC, así como en temas relativos a la fiscalidad internacional y los impuestos en la economía digital.
- Esperamos que el South Centre siga trabajando con esa dedicación en beneficio del sur global, en temas que requieren dedicada atención de nuestros países como son la reforma de la OMC y la agenda comercial, la amenaza del cambio climático, los temas de derechos humanos, la fiscalidad internacional, la deuda externa, el acceso a vacunas y medicamentos entre muchos otros temas que son de nuestro interés.
- Para finalizar queremos felicitar al Presidente del Board, Sr Thabo Mbeki y al Prof. Carlos Correa por la excelente gestión del South Centre en estos últimos años.

Council of the Representatives of the South Centre

Intervention of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

H.E. Amb. Maira Mariela Macdonal

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

First of all, we would like to thank you for the activity report and the report on the financial activity of the South Centre presented at this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

- Today, with the digitalization of the economy and human life, multilateral relations are becoming more and more challenging for developing countries. The changes are becoming more dizzying and require a greater effort from our countries to respond to the challenges in a timely and accurate manner. In addition, the socio-economic and health crisis caused by COVID-19 and the climate crisis has put many of our countries in very difficult situations.

- In this complex context the South Centre has been a source of information and support on many issues on the international agenda here in Geneva and in other multilateral fora highlighting the importance of having global South institutions. Building global South institutions and staying relevant is not an easy task. The South Centre is one of the few institutions from developing countries that contributes to the South's interests being reflected in the international arena.

- The Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Geneva frequently receives contributions from the South Centre on various issues. But, in addition, with the support of the South Centre, the Government of Bolivia has developed some activities of interest to us on issues such as access to vaccines and the patent exception in the WTO, as well as on issues related to international taxation and taxation in the digital economy.

- We hope that the South Centre will continue to work with such dedication for the benefit of the global South, on issues that require dedicated attention from our countries such as WTO reform and the trade agenda, the threat of climate change, human rights issues, international taxation, foreign debt, access to vaccines and medicines among many other issues that are of interest to us.

- Finally, we would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Thabo Mbeki and Prof. Carlos Correa for the excellent management of the South Centre in recent years.

22nd Meeting of the Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by China

His Excellency Mr. Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council of Representatives,

H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the Board

Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director,

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

The Chinese side would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki for his leadership and thank Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director, for presenting the Report of Activities and Finances of the South Centre.

In 2021, the South Centre persevered in spite of all difficulties, committed to promoting south-south cooperation and solidarity. From the perspective of common interests of developing countries, the South Centre has carried out a great deal of research in global governance, sustainable development, international trade, intellectual property rights, climate change and public health, human rights and development, and achieved excellent results, received widespread praise in the developing world, for which the Chinese side highly

appreciates.

Mr. Convenor,

One year on, our world is facing the combined impacts of changes unseen in a century and the covid-19 pandemic. In all countries, people long for peace and development more than ever before. Their call for equity and justice is growing stronger, and they are more determined in pursuing win-win cooperation.

Last September, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the General Debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He stressed that we must strengthen the global partnership, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and promote stronger, greener and healthier global development. China welcomes all parties that are committed to accelerating implementation of 2030 Agenda to join the GDI.

Mr. Convenor,

China has always valued a good partnership with the South Center and supports the South Center in playing a greater role in the field of south-south cooperation. China stands ready to work with other

member states to further deepen our cooperation, to help other developing countries cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, improve people's livelihood and achieve common development.

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 Cuba en la Vigésima segunda Reunión del Consejo de Representantes del Centro Sur, Ginebra, 24 de febrero de 2022.

Estimado Sr. Carlos Correa,

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

Sr. Ajit Kumar, Convocante del Consejo de Representantes, les traslado un cordial saludo en nombre del embajador Juan Antonio Quintanilla, quien no ha podido participar en esta reunión debido a compromisos pactados con anterioridad.

Valoramos la útil información ofrecida en el Informe sobre las actividades y situación financiera del Centro en el 2021. La información es una clara expresión del decidido apoyo del Centro a los países en desarrollo y a la defensa de sus principales intereses, aún en las difíciles condiciones impuestas por la pandemia de la Covid-19. El Centro continuó adaptando su labor y aportando de manera oportuna y permanente valiosas

reflexiones, ideas o alertas, que marcan la labor de esta institución.

El impacto de la pandemia de COVID-19 ha agudizado las inequidades a niveles globales y nacionales y las múltiples crisis preexistentes.

Hemos observado un dramático aumento de la desigualdad, un incremento insostenible de la carga de la deuda, la pérdida de capitales, la contracción de ingresos y la falta de acceso adecuado y suficiente a los mercados financieros. Los más vulnerables, los países en desarrollo y en particular los menos adelantados, han quedado desprotegidos, mientras las naciones ricas y las élites continúan incrementando sus beneficios.

En estos tiempos cruciales para la humanidad, lamentablemente, se ha impuesto el egoísmo y no la solidaridad internacional. Se han promovido las agresiones y no el diálogo. Se han incrementado las medidas coercitivas, la injerencia, las amenazas, en lugar de la cooperación mutuamente beneficiosa.

Colegas:

Fruto del talento y consagración de nuestros científicos, y de la prioridad concedida por el gobierno cubano, hemos conseguido diseñar y producir tres vacunas propias contra la Covid-19 y otros dos candidatos vacunales. Sobre esta base, hemos expresado nuestra voluntad de trabajar con países interesados en acuerdos de suministro y producción de vacunas, como modesta contribución en el objetivo de alcanzar la pronta inmunización universal.

Por otra parte, 57 brigadas médicas cubanas, integradas por cerca de 5 mil profesionales de la salud, han apoyado el combate a la pandemia en 41 países y territorios.

Lo hemos hecho basados en nuestra vocación humanista y solidaria, y a pesar de los efectos negativos del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero del gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba. El bloqueo a Cuba se ha recrudecido, incluyendo en tiempos de pandemia, a pesar de que la abrumadora mayoría de la comunidad internacional exige su fin. En 2021, por ejemplo, el

reclamo del pueblo cubano a vivir sin bloqueo fue objeto de pronunciamientos por 35 jefes de delegaciones en el debate general de la 76ª Asamblea General de la ONU.

Presidente:

De manera particular, Cuba otorga gran valor al apoyo del Centro en nuestra batalla contra el bloqueo de 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 se extienden de manera creciente a otros países.

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

Concluyo reafirmando el compromiso de Cuba de continuar realizando todos los esfuerzos para honrar nuestra contribución financiera al presupuesto regular del Centro, aún en las tensas condiciones de

su economía, condicionada por la guerra económica
impuesta por los Estados Unidos.

Muchas gracias

**Statement by Cuba at the Twenty-second Meeting of the Council of
Representatives of the South Centre, Geneva, February 24, 2022.**

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

I extend cordial greetings on behalf of Ambassador Juan Antonio Quintanilla, who was unable to participate in this meeting due to previously agreed commitments.

We appreciate the useful information provided in the Report on the activities and financial situation of the Centre in 2021. The information is a clear expression of the Centre's strong support to developing countries and to the defense of their main interests, even under the difficult conditions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centre continued to adapt its work and to contribute, in a timely and permanent manner, valuable reflections, ideas or alerts that mark the work of this institution.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated global and national inequities and multiple pre-existing crises.

We have seen a dramatic increase in inequality, an unsustainable increase in debt burdens, loss of capital, income contraction and lack of adequate and sufficient access to financial markets. The most vulnerable, the developing and particularly the least developed countries, have been left unprotected, while rich nations and elites continue to increase their profits.

In these crucial times for humanity, unfortunately, selfishness rather than international solidarity has prevailed. Aggression, not dialogue, has been promoted. Coercive measures, interference, threats, rather than mutually beneficial cooperation, have increased.

Colleagues:

As a result of the talent and consecration of our scientists, and the priority given by the Cuban government, we have managed to design and produce three of our own vaccines against COVID-19 and two other vaccine candidates. On this basis, we have expressed our willingness to work with countries interested in agreements for the supply and

production of vaccines, as a modest contribution to the goal of achieving early universal immunization.

On the other hand, 57 Cuban medical brigades, made up of nearly 5 thousand health professionals, have supported the fight against the pandemic in 41 countries and territories.

We have done so based on our humanist and solidarity vocation, and in spite of the negative effects of the economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States government against Cuba. The blockade of Cuba has been tightened, including in times of pandemic, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of the international community demands its end. In 2021, for example, the Cuban people's demand to live without a blockade was the subject of pronouncements by 35 heads of delegations in the general debate of the 76th UN General Assembly.

President:

In a particular way, Cuba attaches great value to the support of the Centre in our battle against the blockade of 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 are increasingly extending to other countries.

Our battle will not cease and in it we count, as always, with the countries of the South and of course with the Centre.

I conclude by reaffirming Cuba's commitment to continue making every effort to honor our financial contribution to the Centre's regular budget, even in the tense conditions of its economy, conditioned by the economic war imposed by the United States.

Thank you very much.

22nd Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre Statement by India

Chairperson and members of the Board, Convenor of the Council of Representatives, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. A very good afternoon to you all. I thank the Convener of the Council, Amb Ajit Kumar, for giving me the floor and assure him of our full cooperation. I convey our sincere gratitude to him for his leadership and efficient steering of the work of the Council of Representatives. I convey our deep appreciation to H.E. President Thabo Mbeki for his able leadership as Chairperson of the South Centre Board. I also thank Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, for his comprehensive report on the activities and finances of the South Centre, presented today and assure him of our full support to South Centre.
2. In the past two years, unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has caused adverse impact on global economy, including global trade, global debt situation, availability of finances and realisation of SDGs. It has tested resilience of global economic system and multilateralism. Recovery from the pandemic has been uneven, leaving many of the developing countries behind. The raison d'être of South Centre to evolve solutions to global challenges that work for the countries of the South is more important today than ever.

Mr. Convenor,

3. India has always valued the contribution of the South Centre in advancing the common concerns of the developing countries. Over the past year, the policy and research support provided by South Centre in areas of global health, access to vaccines, TRIPS waiver, international tax cooperation, inclusive recovery, sustainable development, e-commerce, development finance as well during discussions at UNCTAD, WTO, WIPO, WHO have been instrumental in highlighting the concerns and interests of developing countries and delineating our collective approaches. We also appreciate publications, webinars and capacity building programs in 2021 steered by the South Centre addressing the needs of the member States.
4. For India, south-south cooperation among developing countries has been an article of faith for our foreign policy. During the pandemic we have provided medicines, essential equipment and vaccines to fellow developing countries. Around 155 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been supplied by India as grants, commercial purchases and through the COVAX facility. Despite the challenges posed by the covid-19 pandemic, India has continued to provide capacity building and training programs for our developmental partners, taking India's flagship Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation online through called e-ITEC. We have also continued during this period implementation of our bilateral developmental projects with developing countries, which manifests priority we place on south-south cooperation.

5. Due to strong and resilient fundamentals of India's economy, we are on track to achieve 9.2% growth this year, the highest among the large economies. This has become possible due to swift and comprehensive policy response by the Government of India, using a combination of fiscal, monetary and financial measures.
6. As we enter the second year of 'Decade of Action' there are three areas of critical importance for developing countries for ensuring an equitable recovery and realising Agenda 2030 – Health, Climate Change and Digital transformation. India's efforts have recognised the inter-dependence of these critical issues.
7. In June 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi outlined India's vision of “**one earth, one health**”, approach which aims at unity and solidarity among countries responding to global challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. We have extended support to various measures to reform and strengthen the global health architecture, including WHO.
8. India has undertaken a number of steps for digital transformation of India, while ensuring digital inclusion and empowerment of people. India believes that its experience in digital transformation is relevant for other developing countries and is willing to share it.
9. On Climate Change, India has continued to highlight that **Climate Mitigation** and **Climate Adaptation** are two sides for the same coin and successful global climate action needs adequate financing. For this, developed countries need to fulfill their commitments on finance and technology transfer. India has taken Initiatives like **International Solar Alliance** and **Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure** for Climate Adaptation which reflect India's commitment to contribute to global action on climate change. On the side-lines of CoP-26, we launched an initiative called "**Infrastructure for Resilient Island States**" for the Island Developing States which are the most vulnerable to impact of climate change.

Mr. Convenor,

10. We are confident that South Centre will continue to provide its valuable analysis and policy guidance on these and other issues of importance to the global South. We invite south Centre to engage more intensively in areas such as AI and other emerging technologies, e-commerce and data, in all its dimensions, to provide policy options for the developing countries with a view to ensure that they are able to protect their interests in deliberations and negotiations pertaining to setting global norms on these issues.
11. India is committed to work with other member States of the South Centre, in a constructive manner, to further enhance the role of South Centre as a preeminent think-tank of the global South. We will continue to support South Centre, including financial support. I thank you for your kind attention.

Twenty-second Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

Statement by Indonesia

24 February 2022

Chairman of the Board, Your Excellency, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki,

Convenor of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre, Your Excellency Ajit Kumar

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

Excellencies and Colleagues,

1. First of all, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Febrian A. Ruddyard, and I arrived in Geneva at the end of December 2021 last year as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, the WTO, and other International Organizations in Geneva.

➔ The meeting today marks my first meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre.

2. I would like to thank the Executive Director for the report of the activity of South Centre and the Chairman of the Board for his update.

3. In this opportunity, I would like to convey Indonesia's highest appreciation for all the contributions of the South Centre delivered toward, both collectively and individually.

➔ South Centre has consistently assisted South countries through policy research and negotiation support across the international organization in Geneva.

4. Since the Centre's inception, there has been growing development of relationship between Indonesia and the Centre that resulting in beneficial and far-reaching projects.
5. These among others include:
 - ➔ South Centre's contribution as the experts on the retreat of the group of friends of the pandemic treaty that was organized by Indonesia in September 2021.
 - ➔ South Centre Tax Initiative (SCTI) where Indonesian tax officials were participating in 2021.
6. Currently both sides are exploring to advance cooperation on research and training cooperation.
7. On various multilateral issues, I take note that the Centre always provide member states with much-needed consultation meetings, constructive analysis, thematic research, and the contribution of expertise.
8. **On WTO and WIPO issues**, the Centre regularly holds consultation meetings in formulating respective national position and common position among developing countries.
9. **On health and human rights issues**, various thematic analysis and research conducted by the Centre have helped the developing countries to broaden the strengthen their policy formulation.
10. **On taxation issues**, the Centre has frequently published policy briefs, organized technical briefing and provided

recommendations, especially on the taxation of the digitalized economy.

11. I also would like to highlight the capability of the Centre to maintain its relevance and critical role by focusing its works on trade, health, taxation, intellectual property, and innovation issues.

➔ These areas are notably important for the member states in responding to the pandemic.

12. It also commendable on how the Centre undertakes initiatives to save cost as means to anticipate the impact of the pandemic to the financial situation of the member states.

➔ Indeed, there is a delay of contribution from member states, some of them because of the domestic financial refocusing in mitigating the impact of pandemic.

➔ However, this does not mean a lack of commitment to contribute.

13. Mr. Chairman, in 2022 we are still facing COVID-19 pandemic.

➔ The need to ensure equitable, affordable, safe, and effective access of vaccine of the developing countries has become more urgent than ever.

➔ Strong coordinated multilateral response was needed.

14. 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, which in line with Indonesia's priorities in its G20 presidency.

15. First, the global health architecture

➔ A strengthened global health architecture is imperative for our international community in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and anticipating future potential pandemics.

16. Second, the digital transformation

➔ Digitalization in all sectors of our life is important, including in agriculture, trade, e-commerce, education, and others.

17. Third, the energy transition

➔ Energy transition that is affordable and inclusive is much needed to realize a more sustainable world.

➔ This agenda would be a key issue as we envision to continue our collective effort in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

18. Finally, Indonesia believes that South Centre will continuously play a constructive and significant role in supporting the South-South Countries to recover from the crisis and to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

19. 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 mission and vision.

➔ Indonesia is also proud to nominate one of the finest of Indonesian in south-south and technical cooperation field, Ambassador Siti, to be the Board Member of the South Centre.

➔ Ambassador Siti was the first Director of Technical Cooperation Unit in our Foreign Ministry and paved the way for the establishment of the Indonesian AID (Agency for International Development).

20. I thank you.

**Statement
by
Mr. Mehdi Ali Abadi
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Before
the Twenty second meeting of Council of Representatives of the South Centre
Geneva, 24 February 2022**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Mr. Convenor,

At the outset I would like to extend my appreciation for your successful leadership. Our thanks go also to the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, and his team for the valuable endeavors to advance the mandate and responsibilities of the South Center and his report on the activities of south Centre in the previous year.

Mr. Convenor,

As one of the oldest members of the South Centre, Iran attaches great importance to the South Center role to promote the common interests of global south in the international arena. We believe strongly that the Center has huge potentials in mainstreaming the solutions for overcoming our challenges in circumstances that the South progress is dependent more than ever to the unity and cooperation of global south as two guiding principles of Centre mission. In this regard I would like to highlight the following points:

We appreciate the technical assistance provided by South Centre during the recent negotiations specially those related to WHO, UNCTAD XV and the Declaration on the Right to development.

Welcoming the recommendation made by the G77 ministerial declaration on the use of expertise of the South Centre for training and policy making through organizing regular sessions of the Gamani Corea Forum at a high-level standing, we thank also the efforts of the South Centre in providing tailored training and courses such as Asian Regional Course for Judges on Intellectual Property and Public Health which was a successful experience in this regard. We hope that these courses would be continue in various field proposed by member countries and in line with their national priorities and needs.

The south as a historic victim of unilateral actions and policies in different forms inter alia economic, financial and trade restrictions 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. In this regard we appreciate that this issue has been put on the work program 2020-2022 of the Centre but we expect that the efforts of Centre would be strengthen on this issue.

Distinguished colleagues

The South Center 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 currently. Covide19 disproportionately affected the developing countries, and in a latest development in this regard based on the decision taken at the Special Session of the World Health Assembly the member states are mandated “to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response” the South Centre could contribute in this process by helping the countries of the South to develop common points of view and to work together on this major international development-related policy issue.

22nd Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
Statement by Jamaica
24th February 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

Let me first use the opportunity to extend commendations, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica, to Dr. Carlos Correa for his leadership of the Organization. Jamaica also thanks him for his usual comprehensive report on the activities of the Centre during 2021. Like the year before it, 2021 was a difficult one characterized by the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus, the emergence of new variants and the associated economic and social challenges that continues to affect our countries over two years later. This is a global trend. The Centre was, however, not daunted and continued to deliver on its mandate of providing the necessary support to its members.

Chair,

As the issues on the multilateral agenda continue to expand and intensify, developing countries will need additional support to ensure that they are versed on these issues and able to make substantive contributions in multilateral fora. It is against the background that the South Centre was established and now more than ever the work of the Center is critical. The invaluable support of the South Center has been instrumental in advancing and safeguarding the collective and individual interests of developing countries. In this regard, I wish to highlight that my delegation has benefitted for the briefing sessions held on topics being discussed in the various international organizations such as WHO, WIPO and WTO.

Jamaica takes note of the full slate of activities undertaken by the Centre for 2021. I wish to particularly highlight the Centre's focus on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic including the manufacturing of, and improving access to, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. This has been and will continue to be a topic of great importance to the Global

South as we continue to explore how to increase production and reduce the vaccine inequity. The Centre was also actively involved in the preparatory work leading up the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference which was cancelled due to the pandemic. The continued support from the Centre will be useful as we recommence efforts towards a new date in June.

Chair,

It would be remiss of me not to mention some of the other areas of work of the Centre on issues relevant to developing countries ranging from health to human rights. We hope to see continued work on new and emerging issues relating to climate change, environment, digitalisation and e-commerce. The Centre has produced numerous research papers, policy briefs and other publications, all of which have assisted in guiding policy positions and interventions of Members. The work on taxation and development finance has not gone unnoticed as these are areas of great importance to many Small Island Developing States like Jamaica.

As we look to future, the Centre should always be conscious of the needs of Members States and ensure that there is continued engagement with members. It is only through this sort of engagement that the Centre will be able to position itself and align even greater with the interests and priorities of members. The voice of developing countries needs to be amplified across the international community and the South Center has a critical role to play in this undertaking.

The pandemic has caused many disruptions to our daily lives but has also created opportunities and in this regard, through virtual means the Centre can expand its interaction with Capital based officials. It has also created an opportunity for us to reflect on how the Centre can be even more pragmatic and innovative in addressing the needs of member states.

Chair

As we continue to contend with the multiplicity of issues on the multilateral agenda and limited human resources, Jamaica is confident that the South Centre will continue to pursue its mandate and serve as a key partner from developing countries. My delegation looks forward to continued engagement with the South Centre in these discussions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**STATEMENT BY
H.E. DATO' DR. AHMAD FAISAL MUHAMAD
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA
AT THE 22ND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
24 FEBRUARY 2022**

His Excellency Mr Chairperson of the Board

His Excellency Mr Convenor

Executive Director

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Allow me to begin by thanking the Executive Director and the Secretariat for organising this meeting. Thank you also for preparing and circulating the documents for this meeting, including the Report of Activities for 2021, Report of the Executive Director and Report on Financial Situation of the South Centre for the year 2021.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record, our appreciation to the Chairperson, Board members, Executive Director and members of staff of the South Centre for their continued efforts and commitment in fulfilling their mandate and role to support members of the South Centre, especially during this challenging time. Malaysia commends the South Centre's hard work to promote the common interests of developing countries through various initiatives such as research, meetings, trainings, webinars, and briefings.

3. Malaysia takes note of the valuable work carried out by the South Centre in 2021 on many important issues, including public health; intellectual property; international trade; climate change; digital economy; e-commerce; tax; debt and finance for development. The advice and guidance provided by the South Centre has

helped us to increase our understanding, formulate our policies and positions as well as unify our views and efforts to promote the common interests of developing countries at International Geneva.

4. Malaysia is pleased to note that the South Centre has been able to end the Financial Year 2021 in a healthy budgetary surplus, similar to previous years. We support the Work Program and activities carried out by South Centre, and hope that these initiatives will not only continue this year, but will be further improved.

5. The South Centre has been playing an important role since its inception. To remain relevant, we believe it is important for the South Centre to intensify its efforts to provide high quality research and analysis, cooperate with relevant stakeholders including developed countries and other international organisations, continue promoting South-South cooperation in all relevant international fora, and closely engaging with individual member state on issues of importance to the respective state. This is critical, especially in overcoming the existing, new and evolving challenges during the post-COVID recovery.

5. Before I conclude, I wish to share that Malaysia and the South Centre will be organising a capacity building training on taxation of the digitalised economy in the first half of 2022. The training aims to provide an opportunity for Global South tax officials to exchange views, knowledge and experience in designing more effective and realistic national policies in line with respective national capabilities. The training is also aimed at increasing the ability of Global South tax officials to participate actively in international tax-negotiation fora, such as the United Nations and OECD. We will share details of this training with members of the South Centre, G77 and China in due course.

6. Finally, let me reaffirm Malaysia's resolute commitment to support the work of the South Centre. We stand ready to work closely with the South Centre and its member states.

Thank you.

**Mission Permanente de la
République du Mali à Genève**

**Ambassade de la République du Mali
au près de la Confédération Helvétique**



22^{ème} Conseil des Représentants du Centre Sud

**Projet de Déclaration de S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur,
Représentant permanent du Mali à Genève**

Genève, le 24 février 2022.

**Monsieur le Directeur du Centre Sud,
Madame et Messieurs les Représentants,
Honorables invités,**

A l'entame de mon propos, je voudrais vous présenter les excuses de l'Ambassadeur Mamadou Henri Konaté, qui, empêché, m'a chargé de le représenter à ce conseil.

A la suite, de mes préopinants, je voudrais vous adresser les félicitations de la délégation Malienne pour la tenue de cette vingt-deuxième session du Conseil des représentants de notre organisation commune, et vous remercier d'y avoir associé le Mali.

**Monsieur le Directeur du Centre Sud,
Madame et Messieurs les Représentants,**

Cette session se tient dans un contexte international marqué par la pandémie de la Covid-19 dont l'impact économique et social est très lourd pour tous les pays, en particulier pour les pays les moins avancés dont les vulnérabilités de tous ordres se sont considérablement aggravées, notamment au plan sanitaire et sécuritaire.

La Covid-19 et ses incidences néfastes, commandent la mise en œuvre diligente d'une solidarité continentale agissante, alors que les pays africains se sentent délaissés dans l'accès au vaccin en dépit du dispositif Covax qui n'a que très peu répondu aux attentes en la matière. La création de l'Agence africaine du médicament pourrait être une réponse efficace pour la fabrication de vaccins et de médicaments capables de répondre aux besoins de nos pays. Cette agence bénéficiera, certainement, de votre expertise en matière de santé publique.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Les gains attendus de notre participation au système commercial multilatéral restent mitigés, eu égard à la structure de notre économie nationale dominée par un secteur primaire fragile et exposé aux aléas climatiques, mais surtout du fait des obstacles liés à l'accès au marché que sont : les fluctuations tarifaires, les soutiens internes, la concurrence à l'exportation, les mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires, entre autres.

Le Mali salue et apprécie à leur juste valeur vos réflexions nombreuses et utiles dans le domaine du commerce international et appelle à davantage de renforcement de capacités des pays du Sud.

Monsieur le Directeur,

Je relève que les résultats de vos travaux de recherches sont pour la plupart produits en anglais. Afin de permettre à un plus grand nombre de vos partenaires d'en tirer le meilleur bénéfice, il serait souhaitable que les publications les plus importantes soient également traduites en français.

Je ne saurais terminer mon propos, sans remercier une fois de plus le Centre Sud, l'ensemble de ses partenaires et les membres pour leurs efforts dans le cadre d'un partenariat gagnant-gagnant et de l'assistance technique proposée aux pays en développement.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

**Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Mali in Geneva**

**Embassy of the Republic of Mali
to the Swiss Confederation**



**22nd Council of the Representatives of
the South Centre**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of Mali in Geneva**

Geneva, 24 February 2022.

Mr. Director of the South Centre,
Madam and Gentlemen Representatives,
Honorable guests,

At the beginning of my speech, I would like to present to you the apologies of Ambassador Mamadou Henri Konaté, who, unable to attend, has asked me to represent him at this Council.

Following my predecessors, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the Malian delegation for the holding of this Twenty-second session of the Council of Representatives of our common organization, and to thank you for having associated Mali with it.

Mr. Director of the South Centre,
Madam and Gentlemen Representatives,

This session is being held in an international context marked by the Covid-19 pandemic whose economic and social impact is very heavy for all countries, in particular for the least developed countries whose vulnerabilities of all kinds have considerably worsened, especially in terms of health and security.

Covid-19 and its harmful effects call for the rapid implementation of an active continental solidarity, while African countries feel neglected in terms of access to vaccines, despite the Covax system, which has barely met expectations in this area. The creation of the African Medicines Agency could be an effective response for the manufacture of vaccines and medicines capable of meeting the needs of our countries. This agency will certainly benefit from your expertise in public health.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The gains expected from our participation in the multilateral trading system remain mixed, given the structure of our national economy, which is dominated by a fragile primary sector exposed to the vagaries of the climate, but above all because of the obstacles to market access, which are: tariff fluctuations, domestic support, export competition, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, among others.

Mali welcomes and appreciates your numerous and useful reflections in the field of international trade and calls for more capacity building in the countries of the South.

Mr. Director,

I note that the results of your research work are mostly produced in English. In order to allow a greater number of your partners to benefit from them, it would be desirable that the most important publications also be translated into French.

I cannot conclude my remarks without once again thanking the South Centre, all its partners and members for their efforts in the context of a win-win partnership and the technical assistance offered to developing countries.

Thank you for your kind attention.

MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE
MOÇAMBIQUE JUNTO DAS NAÇÕES
UNIDAS E DE OUTRAS
ORGANIZAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS
EM GENEVRA



PERMANT MISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
IN GENEVA

**Statement by HE Amb. Amadeu da Conceição, Permanent
Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations Office and
Other International Organizations in Geneva, at the 22nd
Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
Geneva, 24th February, 2022**

Mr. Convenor, Ambassador Kumar,

**Your Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, Former President of the
Republic of South Africa, Chairman of the South Centre,
Mr. Executive Director Carlos Correa,
Representatives of the South Centre**

At the outset, we would like to express our delight for meeting once more on the occasion of the Council of Representatives of the South Center.

Mozambique Delegation would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Convener, on the way you have been steering the proceedings of this meeting. We also take this opportunity to commend the work of the whole Board Members.

We thank the Executive Director for the rich report presented to us.

Mr. Convenor,

Mozambique Delegation commend the South Center for the hard work continuously undertaken, related to the multilateral systems, in order to strengthen the development efforts in the countries from the South.

The support continuously provided to our countries is highly commendable. It enabled us to effectively participate in the negotiation processes and contribute to the South efforts to achieve consensus on issues related to covid-19, capacity building on TRIPS flexibilities for Public Health, all the negotiation processes to advance with the TRIPS waiver, as well as antimicrobial resistance, international trade, fishery subsidies, intellectual property, sustainable development, climate change, tax cooperation, to name only a few, through a large production of briefings and publications, which assisted our countries in developing negotiation skills.

The South Centre continues to undertake research and analysis of the problems affecting the South in various international policy areas, where experiences are shared and decisions taken to act collective and individually, on issues that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development of the interests of the developing countries.

Mr. Convenor

As we all are aware of, the global environment has been facing unprecedented challenges and contradictions. Out of our expectations on several issues related to development, progress has been scarce.

The crisis originated by the covid-19 pandemic and the iniquities uncovered underlined the extreme importance of the South Centre in the international Geneva.

We note with great concern that this environment has an impact on the social and economic development of the communities in developing and least developed countries, especially on women and children, who are often the most negatively affected.

We would not like to conclude without expressing our thanks and commend all partners for their generous contributions to the work of the South Centre. We hope that they will continue providing such kind of support to the South Centre's activities in view to continue to technically assist our countries.

Thank you all for your attention.

Geneva, 24th February 2022

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GABRIEL M. OKOKO OF NIGERIA
AT THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE, GENEVA, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2022.**

The Convenor,

The Chair and Members of the Board

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nigeria delegation seizes this opportunity to extend her greetings to the Convenor, the Chairman and members of the Board as well as the Executive Director and the entire staff of the South Centre for convening this meeting and the laudable work done so far. We are very much confident that under your able leadership, we are going to have a fruitful discussion. It is on this premise that we offer our support and commitment towards the achievement of your mandate.

Chairman,

2. Nigeria delegation associate with the statement delivered by the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre and also thank the Chair for his comprehensive report on the activities of the Centre. We also express gratitude to the Council for the support given Professor Charles Soludo of Nigeria when he served as a Board member of the South Centre. We look forward for more collaboration and cooperation in the future.

3. The twenty-second meeting of the Council is coming at a time the world is faced with challenges of the pandemic with unequal access to COVID-19 VACCINES. The Covid-19 pandemic has exponentially increased

extreme poverty and hunger throughout the globe, particularly in Africa and other developing economies. In this context, elimination of poverty and hunger as goals of the 2030 UN agenda for Sustainable Development has become very crucial. This, has made the mandates of the Centre more relevant in the face of these challenges.

4. As we deliberate on the outcome of the twenty-second meeting of the South Centre, we must recognize the need for actionable policies for developing countries to chart and own developmental path, while striving for the achievement of the 2030 Development agenda. We must pursue global objectives on climate change, digital transformation, taxations and sundry issues, with assurances that developing economies, most especially, the most vulnerable ones in the least Developed Countries (LDCs) are availed with policy options to achieve their developmental goals and aspirations.

5. At this juncture, Nigeria is optimistic of high-level cooperation from member countries. As expected, we must take into account and carryout due diligence with respect to the changing focus of multilateralism to the one which promotes Sustainable Development for developing economies in line with the UN agenda 2030 and the African Union AGENDA 2063.

6. In conclusion, Nigeria delegation wishes to reiterate once more, our commitment to the Board and to renew our support to a successful outcome of the twenty-second meeting of 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-Second Virtual Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South
Centre
(24 February 2022)
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 thanking President Thabo Mbeki for his leadership. I also wish to recognize Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, under whose guidance the South Centre continues to discharge its duties ably and efficiently.

The South Centre is doing a commendable job by carrying out extensive research and by providing advocacy and advice on international public policy issues of interest to developing countries. The Centre's provision of technical and capacity building assistance and advisory support to developing countries has also been very valuable.

We also note with appreciation Dr Correa's presentation and report on the activities undertaken by the South Centre in the past year. Specifically, on the COVID-19 response, the Centre has provided useful advice to its members and other developing countries. The Centre's role has been particularly helpful in its raising awareness and advocacy efforts in highlighting:

- i) the negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on developing countries that in turn were exacerbated by vaccine inequity;
- ii) implications of the shrinking policy space in developing countries especially as a result of liquidity and fiscal crunch, debt burdens, barriers to access health technologies;
- iii) the urgency and importance of expanding the vaccine manufacturing capacity including in developing countries, and;
- iv) strengthening the capacity of developing countries to participate in South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Pakistan has always been staunch advocate of solidarity and self-sufficiency among southern nations and closer technical and economic cooperation under the rubric of South-South Cooperation.

Today developing countries are facing many socio-economic challenges. COVID-19 pandemic has hit the developing countries the hardest, further accentuating economic and social inequalities.

Developing countries are obliged to deal with the problems of the past but have also those exacerbated issues generated by the pandemic. The southern countries are also obliged to walk a tight rope; on other hand, they must protect the health and lives of their populations, while simultaneously shielding their economies and people from rising unemployment, poverty. Recovery from the effects of the pandemic has posed daunting challenges to developing countries due to dwindling foreign exchange reserves, mounting debts, globally rising oil and food prices, breakdown in supply chains and the widening digital divide.

In short, many developing countries are at the proverbial ‘tipping point’.

Mr. Convener,

The current crisis has reinforced the imperative to address the systemic anomalies of the global economic system. The current architecture, mechanism and policies have once again failed to respond to the existing and new challenges faced by the developing countries.

The awareness raising and advocacy role of the South Centre therefore is more salient than ever.

Mr. Convener,

The Global South has several common interests and priorities, the advancement of which however demands greater coordination, collaboration and cooperation among our countries.

I would like to highlight some issues that South Center may prioritize in its program for the next year.

First, Enhanced awareness raising and advocacy towards reform of International Economic and Financial Architecture: The South Centre may build on and amplify its support to the proposals for debt relief, creation of International Debt Authority, Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and an independent Global Credit Rating Agency.

Second, Continued advocacy for capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries to ward off risks of claims arising from provisions of International Investment Agreements and to advocate for temporary waiver of Intellectual Property Rights so that manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries is enhanced.

Third, Reform in International Taxation System: South Centre has done a great job in this important area under its Tax Initiative. Fair taxation of multinational and digital companies is necessary. The Centre should continue to provide developing countries policy proposals, guidance and

expert opinion in the on-going reforms of the international tax system in OECD.

Fourth, Assisting developing countries in tackling illicit financial outflows: The South Centre may enhance its advocacy towards implementation of the recommendations of FACTI Panel and explore ways of supporting developing countries in retrieval of their stolen assets parked in developed countries.

Fifth, Continue to provide policy, legal and technical advice across the range of WTO issues including development issues, services, e-commerce, fisheries agriculture, WTO reform and MC12 Outcome Document. We encourage the Centre to establish a platform under its umbrella to provide opportunity for its members to engage, strategize and coordinate over issues at the WTO.

Sixth, Continue to advise and guide the developing countries on the technical aspects of negotiations on the pandemic treaty.

Seventh, Intensify its engagement with G77 and NAM and continue to provide inputs on strengthening the provisions of the draft legal instrument on the right to development, investment protection and reform of investor-state dispute resolution system; and mobilizing the support for fulfilment of financing commitments in the Paris Agreement.

Finally, we encourage South Centre to expand its collaboration with other institutions and scholars of the South.

Mr. Convener,

Pakistan stands ready to work with other Member States to further strengthen the South Centre in all areas of its work.

Thank you.



SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION GENEVA

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DRAFT

Statement Delivered by the Permanent Representative of South Africa, Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, at the 22nd Meeting of Representatives of the Council of the South Centre to be held virtually on 24 February 2022, 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,

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 organization 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.

Excellencies

We start the New Year with a sense of optimism about the challenges that we've
faced over the last two years, occasioned by the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic,
which has a particular devastating effect on the economies of countries of the

Global South. South Centre, as an institution and instrument for development for countries of the global South, has an essential role to play in not only supporting but sharpening our policy responses to this pandemic. In line with our shared aspirations to escape the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment, the South Centre's mandate to foster solidarity and cooperation amongst and between countries of the Global South is even more relevant and critical today than ever before.

We commend the South Centre for supporting the development reforms urgently needed to redress the inequities in the world distribution of income and wealth. We urge the Centre to continue doing so through its unique platform for countries of the Global South to engage, discuss, and agree to a way forward. As we face more turbulent times ahead, collective and decisive action is needed.

We congratulate and welcome the new Programme Coordinator on Trade for Development. As Members get ready for the June WTO Ministerial Conference, support and technical analysis will be required to help missions prepare. Overall, the development perspective is sorely lacking in the WTO negotiations, and we look to the Centre to help developing countries advance positions that support multilateral negotiations that will promote the sustainable and inclusive economic growth of our economies.

There are many trade negotiating issues that will impact developing countries, notably on WTO reform, agriculture negotiations, fisheries subsidies disciplines, the TRIPS waiver and the WTO's response to the pandemic. On the TRIPS waiver, we would like to see the Centre facilitate high-level engagements and advocacy for the TRIPS waiver in which South Africa is a leading proponent. It is regrettable that there has been no significant progress and we count on the Centre to support developing countries, which are still last in line in the production, distribution and access to vaccines. Vaccine manufacturing technology through the waiver is critical if we are to bring an end to the pandemic.

We congratulate the South Centre for the work undertaken over the last year. It is commendable that despite the circumstances during the pandemic, the Centre's work has continued and has recorded increased efficiency and productivity gains.

Excellencies,

In this regard, we commend the South Centre for organizing numerous webinars and information sessions which have assisted many developing countries to stay abreast of developments across all multilateral fora. We further welcome 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. 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 realizing 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,

On the Human Rights dimension the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on the limited advancements that developing countries have been making on human rights issues, with a particular, focus on the issue of the right to development which has been championed by NAM and G77+China countries in particular..

Economic, Social and Cultural are an indivisible part of all the rights which need to be integrated and given more prominence now more than ever before. The COVID 19 pandemic has widened the gap between countries particularly on issues of incomes, wealth, and access to public goods such as health, education, sanitation or water. Therefore, this should be a big forecast for the South Centre in the context of human rights.

In the context of World Health, quite critically is the issue of vaccine equality. This is very much important as it is not only about vaccines, it's also about therapeutics and diagnostics. It is of paramount importance to ensure, access to quality medicines equitably, and for developed countries to be able to share important information in terms of the production of these important tools, which are meant to save lives.

On the WTO, the issue of the TRIPPS Waiver is very critical that the Centre continue its work in the context of pandemic to ensure that we increase and diversify of manufacturing and production, and that countries in the southern

hemisphere should have the capacity to be able to produce at very affordable very cheap rate, lifesaving medicines, therapeutics, diagnostics to save lives.

The current situation is absolutely untenable. Therefore collaboration between the WTO, WHO and WIPO particularly around pandemic preparedness and response is crucial. TRIPS WAIVER is the heart of the developing countries, therefore, it would be crucial that the Centre provides policy guidelines and strategies on how to unlock the deadlock in the WTO so that the process can move forward.

Other major traditional issues of concerns for developing countries relate to issues of debt. In the context of COVID many developing countries are meant to go to the international financial institutions to make arrangements for loans and some request for debt rescheduling and special drawing rights. It would be important, therefore, that the South Centre continues to guide the developing countries insofar as the issues of debts as well as the illicit financial flows.

Developing countries face the most consequences from climate change, particularly Small and Island States. The question is how do we take forward the Paris and Glasgow process around the climate change, in particular the Just Energy Transition. It is critical that the South Centre should advise the developing countries on how we take forward these processes.

In UNCTAD, Trade and Development is very critical especially locating it within the broad rubric of the Covid 19 response. The South Centre should continue assisting developing countries in implementing the outcomes of UNCTAD XV, particularly in building productive capacities and capacities in the digital economy.

The Centre should also help the developing countries to develop a clear strategy of how to take forward the Outcomes of the Bridgetown Ministerial Conference as well as the upcoming 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Finally, 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.

I thank you.

**Statement by Sri Lanka
at the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre: 24.02.2022**

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

Mr. Ajit Kumar, the distinguished Convener of the Center,

The distinguished members of the Board,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank for giving Sri Lanka the floor to deliver its statement.

I make this statement on behalf of my ambassador who is attending another important meeting right now at the WTO.

My delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Director for their comprehensive reports.

The reports were indeed very helpful in understanding the major developments in the areas covered by the Work Program and activities of the South Centre and the major achievements and challenges faced by the Centre. My delegation also notes that, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has been able to continue its services for the benefit of member countries, which is indeed commendable.

Sri Lanka is very grateful to the Centre for the very important role it has been playing to support the developing countries as an independent policy think tank over the years since its establishment in 1995.

It goes without saying that the Centre has been instrumental in strengthening negotiating capacities of developing countries in many areas that are of the core mandates of many international institutions, including the United Nations and its affiliated bodies, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization to name a few.

Many papers published by the Centre and the well-organized thematic sessions on many key areas, such as trade and health, Agriculture, Intellectual properties, investment, technology and innovation, taxation, food security, debt crisis, digital economy, trade and environment, and climate change, have contributed immensely to formulate best suited negotiating strategies for the developing countries.

The South Centre's Trade for Development Programme (TDP) has been an invaluable pillar of strength, particularly for the small missions, such as Sri Lanka, and has served as a reliable source of technical expertise. Our mission has benefitted from the notes and technical analyses they produce, as well as the counsel and advisory support they offer on continuous basis.

We are well aware that the TDP has a very small staff of just two persons to complement the amount of work they produce. Despite these constraints, they have demonstrated their capabilities to help under-resourced missions in Geneva to understand the implications of proposals in relation to their policy objectives and provide them with substantive and evidence-based solutions.

This level of interaction with the TDP has allowed us to establish a good rapport with colleagues and build closer relationships with like-minded members. Our mission notes with appreciation the TDP's readiness to engage with us and the platforms it provides to small missions are extremely helpful to understand and articulate key negotiation aspects from development point of view.

As stated above, Sri Lanka, being a small and vulnerable developing country, has immensely benefitted from the services offered by the Centre, especially the technical sessions conducted by the well-informed specialists and the comprehensive research papers on key sectors.

Sri Lanka would like to extend its special thanks to the Centre for the valuable inputs, advice and guidance provided by the experts of the Centre for many key 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.

In this regard, my delegation would like to put on record the services and assistance rendered and contributions made by Ms. Vahini Naidu, Mr. Peter Lunenborg, Ms. Viviana Muñoz and Mr. Abdul Muheet, as the technocrats of the Centre in their areas of competencies.

They need to be commended for their effective and timely responses to our demands, taking into account the diversity in levels of socio-economic development of member countries.

My delegation is of the view that the Centre should continue to prioritize the support being given to developing countries in negotiations of all WTO issues that are important to them, especially, fishery subsidies, agriculture e-commerce and trade & environment.

In addition, my delegation is of the view that the Centre should do more work in finance and economic development, impact of manmade and natural disasters, digital gap, external debt crisis and international tax cooperation as these issues have become very contentious from the perspectives of developing country concerns.

Finally, Sri Lanka would like to reiterate its continuous support to the center's work.

I thank you.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS - GENEVA**



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E MAIMUMA KIBENGA TARISHI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, AT THE 22ND
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH
CENTRE, GENEVA, 24TH FEBRUARY 2022**

Mr. Convenor,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before the Council of Representatives of the South Centre. First and foremost, allow me to express our gratitude to Members of the Board of South Centre and the Chairman of the Board, His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, the former President of the Republic of South Africa for his leadership to the Centre. Similarly, allow me to also express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Director of the Centre and his staff for their tireless efforts and commitment to the work of the Centre.

Mr. Convenor,

I would also like to specifically thank the Centre for the technical support it has continued to provide its members on various issues negotiated in the multilateral organizations in Geneva and Vienna. The Centre has continued to support its members by carrying out numerous activities efficiently despite the challenges of COVID-19. Apart from organising virtual and physical brainstorming sessions in 2021, the Centre offered members with analytical papers, publications, research papers, policy briefs as well as capacity building activities.

On UNCTAD and WTO, in 2021 members were busy with preparations for Ministerial Conferences of UNCTAD 15 and MC12 respectively. UNCTAD 15 successfully concluded in October 2021 with an outcome, *the Bridgetown Covenant*. The Bridgetown Covenant mandates UNCTAD for the next four years to support developing countries in their endeavour to emancipate from inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all. It will be a remiss of my delegation not to recognise the support of South Centre in the negotiations towards UNCTAD 15 outcome. Moreover, I would like to urge the Centre to continue to advise its members on the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant.

For the WTO, MC12 is far from over, following its postponement in December 2021. We appreciate the intense policy and legal work carried out by the South Centre's Trade Program in 2021, especially in the last few months leading up to

the MC12 prior its postponement. They provided us with immense support and analysis in the negotiations as elaborated in the report of activities of the year. Notably, the South Centre has supported negotiations on the WTO response to COVID-19 pandemic (the Walker process), development and Special & Differential Treatment, fisheries subsidies disciplines, Agriculture, Work Programme on E-commerce and the moratorium, negotiations on the MC12 outcome document, Services, ongoing WTO reform issues, as well as the legal issues and implications of the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs).

In 2022, more intense work is still needed in these areas to equip developing countries to shape MC12 outcomes in a way that will preserve the policy space of developing countries and advance our development interest.

Further, we note that there are divergent approaches that countries of the South are taking on some WTO issues particularly on JSIs. The WTO is in a fragile state and we think that in the interest of multilateral trading system, we should prioritize multilateral approaches and support outcomes that will positively help our economies grow and develop. It is important the South Centre continues supporting all members in their respective approaches. It should continue to analyse issues being negotiated under JSIs and advise participating members of the South to take informed positions which advance interests of developing countries and LDCs. Conscious efforts are crucial in helping trade negotiators shape more inclusive and development-centred rules that are being developed in and on the side of the WTO

Mr. Convenor

On WHO matters, I would like to start by commending the Centre's continued effort to campaign and raise awareness of the members and the international community on the critical challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which calls our collective actions and cooperation for immediate future solution.

Further, we are grateful of the technical advice and support provided by the Centre during the Second Special Session of the World Health Assembly (WHASS) held in December 2021 that led us into resolve for the formation of an Intergovernmental Negotiation Board (INB) on the pandemic treaty. My delegation is also appreciative to the guidance offered by the Centre in the process of filling the survey which provided input on the implementation of the COVID-19 recommendations. Moreover, we welcome the support provided by the Centre's in the process of amending the World Health Regulation 2015 (IHL 2015), identifying important aspects and elements that need to be included therein and stressing equity in the process of Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies in future.

Similarly, I would also like to commend the work carried out by the Centre in 2021 on other areas, notably WIPO, UNCITRAL, Climate Change, Tax Issues, Investment, Human Rights, Development Finance and the EU- ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The mentioned areas are equally important to us and their advancement must entrench interests of the South.

Mr. Convenor,

On finance management of the Centre, my delegation also notes with satisfaction the healthy financial situation, and I commend the leadership, and the Secretariat of the Centre for once again running a budget surplus for three consecutive years. The current financial health of the Centre should not lead us to complacency but should invigorate our efforts to raise more funds in order to strengthen the centre in terms of manpower that will facilitate us in carrying out more activities in the future. That said, I want to assure the centre on my Government's unwavering commitment to continue to fulfil its obligation of timely furnishing its annual contribution.

Finally, again this year, I would like to conclude my brief remarks with a quote from Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first Chairman of the South Centre; *“responsibility for the development of the South lies in the South and in the hands of the people of the South”*.

I thank you Mr. Convenor.

Asante Sana.

22nd Meeting Council of Representatives of the South Centre

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Delivered by Amb. Eunice Irungu Kigenyi, 24 February 2022

Chairman of the South Centre Board, President Thabo Mbeki,

Executive Director,

Thank you and good afternoon to you all,

The Delegation of Uganda extends its thanks to the Executive Director and his colleagues, for convening this meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre.

We note with appreciation the Reports on Activities of the South Centre and commend the Centre's determination to remain flexible and agile to adapt its support to members, especially the most vulnerable ones, to the evolving pandemic situation by helping them address the challenges exacerbated by the pandemic and build resilience to future shocks through building capacity to formulate and update policies.

Over the years, we have witnessed a significant narrowing of the development agenda, as well as a growing gap between the development needs of LDCs and the level of financing available, making it imperative for a renewed demonstration of political commitment by all states, global institutions and the private sector.

To this end, the Centre should play a leading role in enhancing the visibility and global coverage of our pro-development agenda and my government welcomes the South Centre's contributions towards the preparations of UNCTAD 15, which reaffirmed the prioritization of the needs and interests of developing countries, including by fostering their productive capacities and structural transformation for sustainable development.

Chair, as a small mission in Geneva, allow us to also recognise the important work carried out by the Centre in the Trade Programme. Over the last few months they have provided us with important technical and legal analysis on LDC implementation issues, the Walker process, and counsel on the aspects relating to the cross-cutting development agenda in the WTO.

The convening power of the Centre to bring developing countries together is one of its most distinct institutional advantages and we look forward to a time where the Centre's trade meetings resume in person.

We call on the Centre to continue supporting our delegations on the various multilateral engagements including the pandemic response, WTO reform, the emerging trade and environment agenda and the WTO's MC12

which is now scheduled for the week of 13th June in which Uganda will serve as a vice-chair of the conference.

The stakes are very high, especially for developing countries – and we see a positive role for the Centre in championing a multilateral trading system that responds to the needs of developing countries, in particular of least developed countries and capacitating trade negotiators with technical and strategic advice to advance their development priorities.

I thank you!



**MENSAJE DEL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLICA
BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA,
S.E. EMBAJADOR HECTOR CONSTANT ROSALES,
ANTE LA VIGESIMOSEGUNDA REUNION DEL CONSEJO DE
REPRESENTANTES DEL CENTRO SUR**

JUEVES, 24 DE FEBRERO DE 2022

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,

Agradecemos el informe presentado por el Director Ejecutivo sobre las actividades del Centro y su situación financiera. En este sentido, queremos dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento a las labores de investigación, análisis y asistencia técnica que ofrece el Centro Sur en la articulación de posiciones en el ámbito del comercio internacional, la propiedad intelectual, la salud, el desarrollo sostenible, la financiación para el desarrollo, la cooperación fiscal, los derechos humanos, la inversión, la gobernanza de Internet y la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Valoramos los esfuerzos cotidianos del Centro Sur para apoyarnos y mantenernos cohesionados frente a los impostergables desafíos que los países en desarrollo debemos enfrentar, en un mundo cada vez más interdependiente y globalizado, pero también, a la vez, cada vez más complejo y polarizado, lo cual lamentablemente no disminuirá en el corto plazo.

Especial mención merece el apoyo analítico transversal en todos los temas de la agenda de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, en particular en lo relativo a las negociaciones sobre subvenciones a la pesca, agricultura, reforma y respuesta a la pandemia. Igual reconocimiento merece el apoyo recibido en los temas de la Agenda de la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad intelectual y de la Organización Mundial de la Salud. En la actual coyuntura de pandemia del COVID 19, los análisis sobre acceso a medicamentos, patentes farmacéuticas y resistencia a los antimicrobianos han sido de especial relevancia. Igualmente valoramos los aportes en materia de derecho al desarrollo y medio ambiente.

En este sentido, observamos con agrado un aumento en los trabajos de investigación, así como una mayor opción de publicaciones en idioma español, lo que facilita la divulgación del conocimiento entre nuestros técnicos en la capital. También observamos con satisfacción el fortalecimiento de vínculos con instituciones de pensamiento afín como la Secretaria de la UNCTAD, el Third World Network y el Instituto de la India sobre Comercio Exterior.

Quisiera, asimismo, reiterar la importancia que tiene para Venezuela contar con el Centro Sur como un importante aliado en el estudio y en la denuncia de las Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales. En este sentido, valoramos la participación del Profesor

Carlos Correa como ponente en la Conferencia Académica Internacional, Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales: Irrespeto del Derecho Internacional y Graves Consecuencias Humanas, celebrada en formato virtual el 09 y 10 de junio de 2021. Muchas fueron las conclusiones que salieron de esta actividad, cuyo perfil fue netamente académico. Sin embargo, en aras del tiempo, me limitaré a destacar que el régimen de medidas coercitivas unilaterales constituye una poderosa arma política cada vez más utilizada por países hegemónicos que además de violar los principios fundamentales del derecho internacional como la soberanía de los Estados y el derecho de autodeterminación de los pueblos, obstruyen o imposibilitan la realización de los 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Sin contar con obstáculos inmediatos y penosos, como por ejemplo el retraso de Venezuela para honrar sus cuotas y contribuciones en las Organizaciones e instituciones internacionales como el propio centro Sur.

Las MCU tienen efecto transversal en todas las áreas del Derecho internacional. Sin embargo, existen limitados y pocos estudios sobre la relación de las medidas coercitivas unilaterales con la normativa económica y comercial internacional ni con el derecho humanitario. En consecuencia, existe la necesidad de reforzar una base de datos y una red de académicos para que haya más estudios y ampliar la investigación en este ámbito. En este sentido, Venezuela confía en seguir contando con el apoyo del Centro Sur y espera también que se refuercen análisis sociopolíticos que permitan entrar en el estudio de las grandes tendencias actuales desde una metodología y una percepción del Sur, una percepción decolonial y anti-hegemónica, que ofrezca herramientas adicionales a los países miembros y consolide circuitos de diálogo científico.

Para finalizar, Venezuela apoya una mayor participación de América Latina y el Caribe en la Junta Directiva del Centro Sur, por lo que confiamos que la vacante existente para nuestra región cuente pronto con un digno o digna representante.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con el Centro Sur, con sus objetivos y principios, así como con su vigencia y trascendencia como articulador de los intereses del Sur.

Muchas gracias.

MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA,

H.E. AMBASSADOR HECTOR CONSTANT ROSALES,
TO THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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 Members of the Board of Directors, Ambassadors and Colleagues,

We appreciate the report presented by the Executive Director on the activities of the Centre and its financial situation. In this regard, we wish to place on record our appreciation for the research, analysis and technical assistance provided by the South Centre in articulating positions in the areas of international trade, intellectual property, health, sustainable development, financing for development, tax cooperation, human rights, investment, Internet governance and South-South cooperation.

We value the daily efforts of the South Centre to support and maintain cohesion in the face of the urgent challenges that developing countries must face in a world that is increasingly interdependent and globalized, but also increasingly complex and polarized, which unfortunately will not diminish in the short term.

Special mention should be made of the cross-cutting analytical support for all the issues on the agenda of the World Trade Organization, particularly with regard to the negotiations on fisheries subsidies, agriculture, reform and the response to the pandemic. Equally deserving of recognition is the support received in the agenda items of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Health Organization. In the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the analyses on access to medicines, pharmaceutical patents and antimicrobial resistance have been of special relevance. We also value the contributions on the right to development and the environment.

In this regard, we are pleased to note an increase in research work, as well as a greater number of publications in Spanish, which facilitates the dissemination of knowledge among our technicians in the capital. We also note with satisfaction the strengthening of ties with like-minded institutions such as the UNCTAD Secretariat, the Third World Network and the Indian Institute for Foreign Trade.

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 this regard, we value the participation of Professor Carlos Correa as a speaker at the International Academic Conference, Unilateral Coercive Measures: Disrespect for International Law and Serious Human Consequences, held in virtual format on June 9 and 10, 2021. Many conclusions came out of this activity, whose profile was purely academic. However, in the interest of time, I will limit myself to highlight that the regime of unilateral coercive measures constitutes a powerful political weapon increasingly used by hegemonic countries that, in addition to violating the fundamental principles of international law such as the sovereignty of States and the right to self-determination of peoples, obstruct or make impossible the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Not to mention immediate and painful obstacles, such as Venezuela's delay in honoring its quotas and contributions to international organizations and institutions such as the South Centre itself.

Unilateral coercive measures have a cross-cutting effect in all areas of international law. However, there are limited and few studies on the relationship of unilateral coercive measures with international economic and trade law and humanitarian law. Consequently, there is a need to strengthen a database and a network of academics for more studies and to expand research in this area. In this regard, Venezuela hopes to continue to count on the support of the South Centre and also hopes that socio-political analyses will be strengthened to enable the study of major current trends from a methodology and a perception of the South, a decolonial and anti-hegemonic perception, which will offer additional tools to member countries and consolidate circuits of scientific dialogue.

Finally, Venezuela supports a greater participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Board of the South Centre, so we trust that the existing vacancy for our region will soon have a worthy representative.

We reiterate our commitment with the South Centre, with its objectives and principles, as well as with its validity and transcendence as an articulator of the interests of the South.

Thank you very much.

Statement of Ambassador Dr. Le Thi Tuyet Mai

– Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the UN, WTO and other IOs in Geneva at the the Twenty second Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre (24 February 2022)

Excellency Mr. Convenor Ambassador Ajit Kumar

Excellency Mr. 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 thanks the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre, the Executive Director and the Convenor for your able leadership in promoting the work of the South Centre, including the organization of the 22nd meeting of the Council of the representatives of the South Centre.

Viet Nam takes note with appreciation the Report by Executive Director Dr. Carlos María Correa that highlights the achievements and activities that the South Centre has conducted in the past year. We highly appreciate, among others, South Centre's timely and insightful briefings, technical assistance, and promotion of South-South cooperation and coordination at multilateral platforms in Geneva on a wide range of topical issues such as Covid-19 response and pandemic preparedness, trade and environment, TRIPS waiver, tax cooperation etc.

2. Given the common global pressing challenges, Viet Nam supports South Centre's 2020-2022 working agenda which focuses on those areas of great significance for developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development such as pandemic response, trade and development, international regulations on investment, innovation and intellectual property rights as well as technology transfer, social aspects of development and human rights, health and development, global governance, reform of the international tax system, etc.

3. Viet Nam has benefited immensely from South Centre's research and capacity building activities in dealing with new and evolving challenges which we are working with the international community for collective solutions.

Taking this opportunity, I am delighted to share with you that in combating COVID-19 pandemic during the past 2 years, Viet Nam has managed to control the COVID-19 with rather low death rate, retain positive economic growth (2.91% in 2020 and about 2.58% in 2021). Viet Nam is implementing the 10-year socio-economic development strategy (2021-2030), under which green and inclusive economic rebound post-Covid 19 and digital transformation are on top of Viet Nam's development priorities at present.

4. Viet Nam upholds multilateralism and supports the enhancement of multilateral frameworks in promoting international cooperation, combating global challenges as well as

building capacity for developing countries in the course of digital transformation and e-commerce, technology transfer, human rights and gender equality.

Viet Nam has successfully completed its non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council. With an aim to contributing to the Human Right Council, Viet Nam introduced its candidature and is ASEAN candidate for the Human Right Council for the term 2023-2025. We do hope to have the support of the State Members of the South Centre.

Viet Nam is going to organize the Francophonie Economic Forum in Viet Nam late next month to promote South – South and tripartite cooperation for recovery and development.

Viet Nam remains committed to supporting the efforts of the South Centre in carrying out its mandate in promoting South-South cooperation and fostering collective actions in addressing global issues for the achievement of SDGs as well as effective and concerted response to the pandemic and an inclusive recovery post Covid-19.

We are looking forward to the support of the South Centre in sharing studies and opinions, policy proposal, consultations on issues negotiated or discussed at different international organizations in Geneva.

We encourage the collaboration between the South Centre and other international organizations particularly in programmes, actions supporting developing countries.

5. Before concluding my remark, we would like to express sincere thanks the contribution of State Members and partners, as well as the Board members and the Secretariat to the work of the South Centre and upholding the role of this organization for the cooperation and prosperity of the Global South. I am also glad to share with you that regarding the elections of new Board member from Asia, a candidate from Viet Nam Ambassador Vu Anh Quang – a notable career diplomat and experienced expert of multilateral affairs of Viet Nam, was nominated for the election of new board member to replace the outgoing board member from the Philippines. We believe that if elected, the Vietnamese candidate - Ambassador Vu Anh Quang, with his experience, expertise and dedication, will make his utmost contribution toward promoting the South Centre's working agenda and objectives.

I thank you very much!

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H. E. MR STUART COMBERBACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
AT THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

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 situation.

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.

The pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on developing countries, in particular vulnerable economies like Zimbabwe. As we explore the policy tools needed to support a swift recovery, we appreciate the role and relevance of the South Centre. South unity and cooperation is fundamental to combatting the scourge of COVID-19, including our solidarity in advancing balanced outcomes that will support developing countries across all our multilateral engagements.

We are appreciative of the work conducted by the Centre, notably the support and analysis that have been provided to developing country trade, health, investment, and intellectual property negotiators. With the announcement yesterday that the widely anticipated WTO conference will be going ahead in June, we will count on the Trade Coordinator to continue providing us with sound legal and technical analysis on a range of important issues on trade in services, pandemic response, Special and Differential Treatment, WTO reform, fisheries subsidies and food

security, as well as the important legal assessments of issues under discussion in the Joint Statement Initiatives.

With the WTO facing paralysis in its enforcement arm, some very serious systemic concerns have arisen on the ability of the WTO to deliver on agreed mandates and the promises to redress the imbalances in WTO agreements. We will rely on the Centre's trade work to support us and build coalitions towards the realisation of the development gains that we can secure, if developing countries work together.

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, intellectual property, trade, debt, investments, technology transfer, tax, and environment.

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.