



**Statement by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre,
at the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
(BAPA+40), Plenary
Buenos Aires, March 2019**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The South Centre is pleased to participate in this very important Conference. Established in 1995 as an intergovernmental think tank for the developing countries, the South Centre is in itself a manifestation of South-South cooperation. It remains wholly committed to its mandate of promoting the common interests among the countries of the South, while recognising their diversity. The Centre was created by the South and works to enhance policy coordination and cooperation of the South.

Mr. President,

It has been 40 years since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) was adopted, and since then Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) have only grown stronger under the umbrella of South-South cooperation. It covers virtually all areas of significance for the global South in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

South-South cooperation is being undertaken in increasingly diversified modalities, involving an ever expanding set of connected actors and growing rapidly in its scope and magnitude. This reflects the deep commitment of Southern countries to utilise South-South cooperation to supplement their developmental efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

South-South cooperation has evolved to constitute an important means for an effective and productive engagement of the South in the global economic and political system. Since the inception of BAPA, there has been a special emphasis on the need to formulate national strategies to unlock the potential of international cooperation for the social and economic development of the countries of the South. The desire to mainstream South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC)

has been a major point of convergence among developing countries. This requires enhancing their national institutional capabilities and creating a stronger and cohesive enabling environment for SSTRC at the national, regional and multilateral levels. For this purpose, the South Centre and the Islamic Development Bank have been implementing a project on “Enhancing National Ecosystem for SSTRC” for which a comprehensive report will be available soon (the main findings will be presented at a side event to this Conference on the 21st of March).

South-South cooperation is and remains an essential element in the South’s development process and in the multilateral arena. South-South cooperation also supports North-South engagement for enhancing the capacity of developing countries to address the systemic issues at the multilateral level, in fields as diverse as climate change, trade, international finance and taxation, and gaps in global governance and development. As we move towards 2030, South-South cooperation can play a growingly important role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, by supporting and supplementing North-South cooperation.

Mr. President,

In these times when multilateralism is under challenge, South-South cooperation can play a key role in strengthening multilateralism and act as a bulwark against the rising tide of unilateralism based on the blunt exercise of economic and political power.

We hope that South-South cooperation efforts would also strengthen and fortify the South’s own cooperation institutions, such as the South Centre.

In concluding I would like to thank, on behalf of the South Centre, the hospitality of the government of Argentina and also extend our appreciation for the excellent work of the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation and other relevant UN departments in preparing for this Conference.