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SISTEMA ECONÓMICO  
LATINOAMERICANO  
Y DEL CARIBE

## Rapporteur's Report

## Social Development

*XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovative mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Latin America and the Caribbean*  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
08 and 09 February 2023  
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## I.- OVERVIEW

The [XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovative mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation \(SSTC\) in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and the Government of the Dominican Republic, through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy, Planning and Development, with the financial support of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund, was held on 8 and 9 February 2023, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The main objectives of this regional meeting were: i) Present an overview of the main initiatives developed by specialised international organisations and governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen the regional architecture for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (STCST); ii) present and promote an institutional framework and guiding principles that contribute to greater involvement of the private sector in regional strategies for Triangular Cooperation (TC); and iii) disseminate and exchange best practices regarding the diversification of funding sources for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (STCST) projects in the region.

Participants included representatives of the following Member States of SELA: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. In addition, representatives of the following organisations also participated: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Andean Community (CAN), Central American Integration System (SICA), Community of Caribbean States (CARICOM), Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination (TIKA), Inter-American Agency for Development Cooperation (IACD), CooperaNet OAS, Adelante 2 European Union Triangular Cooperation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL-IDB), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development (ALIDE).

The formal activity began with welcoming remarks by the host, who gave a brief overview of the cultural and tourism aspects of the Dominican Republic. He then referred to the objectives and organisers of the "XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovative mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Participants in the opening session included His Excellency Pavel Isa, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic; the Honourable Hugo Rivera, Vice-Minister for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic; and Ambassador Clarems Endara, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA).

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To access the supporting material: background information, working agenda, videos, photographs, and presentations of the meeting, please click [here](#).

### II.- SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

#### Opening session

This section was moderated by the Honourable Ms. Olaya Dotel, Vice-Minister of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, who highlighted the strategic importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSSTC) in the current post-pandemic situation of the countries in the region. She noted that such a condition can only be addressed through a scaffolding of solidarity and joint commitment. She also stressed that multi-stakeholder cooperation could be deepened, involving not only the public sector, but also the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organisations, given that multi-stakeholder efforts, she said, have a greater chance of success in all dimensions of development. Finally, she referred to the objectives of the meeting and invited participants to express their concerns and contributions during the discussions.

**SESSION I. First part. SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION DRIVEN BY AGENCIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.** This session was moderated by Margelia Palacios, Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, who gave a brief description of the topics to be discussed and introduced the speakers.

**Laura Carrillo Cubillas, Director of the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID)**, pointed out the following as central objectives of her organisation: eradicating poverty, ending inequality, and promoting sustainable development in the region. She also highlighted that AMEXCID's SSTC projects have focused on finding solutions in the following sectors: agriculture and food; local development; health; maritime transport; disaster risk management; and community development. She complemented her intervention with the video [Successful experiences of AMEXCID](#), derived from the Agency's cooperation with 20 countries in Central America and the Caribbean, on agricultural issues.

**Juan Manuel Escalante, Director of Bi-Multilateral and South-South International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador (MREMH)**, presented the MREMH [Project to strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#). He highlighted the institutional and structural needs for strengthening cooperation and described the process undertaken by his country to create a fund to increase capacities for South-South Cooperation (SSC). As a preliminary step, he indicated the design of a catalogue of offers for cooperation based on the successful experiences of his country, in order to advance in the process of institutionalising SSC.

**Bruno Sotomayor, International Relations Specialist at the Directorate of Policies and Programmes of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI)**, explained [The Peruvian offer of international technical cooperation \(OPCTI\)](#). He showed two main aspects of the APCI. One refers to the Peruvian offer of international technical cooperation with examples of executed projects, and the second point is linked to the next policy of international technical cooperation 2030 planned by Peru. He also highlighted the publication of the catalogue of the Peruvian offer of international technical cooperation on the APCI Web site. He also stressed that cooperation currently requires the participation of different actors, both at the sub-national level and in the private sector.

**Ernesto Monge, Coordinator of Partnerships and Design of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO)**, referred to the [Project of the Republic of El Salvador](#), which, he explained, consisted of support for the creation of the first Salvadoran university hospital "Hospital Nacional El Salvador," a successful experience in the field of South-South and Triangular cooperation. Finally, he highlighted the synergy achieved to advance the aforementioned project.

**SESSION I. Second part. SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION DRIVEN BY AGENCIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.** The continuation of session I was moderated by Sergio Barazarte, Director of Cooperation with the United Nations System of the People's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela (MPPRE).

**Andrea Castrillo, Coordinator of South-South Cooperation of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation of the Presidency of the Republic (AUCI)**, presented [Uruguay's offer of international cooperation through best practices](#). First, she gave a description of the AUCI and then referred to the best practices implemented by the Agency through the "4As" methodology: Availability, Accessibility, Adaptability and Acceptability.

**Camilo Luco, Deputy Head of the South-South Cooperation and National Development Department of the Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID)**, spoke about [South-South and Triangular Cooperation managed by the AGCID](#). He pointed out some historical milestones in the agency's development, with reference to South-South and Triangular Cooperation. He then stressed that successful experiences have been mainly due to AGCID's institutional strength and innovative financing mechanisms.

**Santiago Galar, National Director of International Cooperation of the Argentinean Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets (ACIAH)**, made a presentation on [Argentinean cooperation](#). He highlighted the recent creation of the ACIAH, which, in order to maximise results, brings together two state policies in a single body. He stressed the importance of advancing in regional positioning, as well as having a common voice before multilateral organisations in order to achieve the objectives of cooperation.

**Daniel Rodríguez Rubiano, Director of Cooperation of the Colombian Presidential Cooperation Agency (APC)**, elaborated on [The professionalisation of South-South Cooperation](#), pointing out that methodologies, formats and instruments are fundamental and essential elements for standardising this model of cooperation and, in this way, achieving the objectives through SSC projects. He presented what APC calls the toolbox, made up of all the resources required to plan, monitor, and evaluate projects. He also pointed out that the APC has a *Knowledge Hub*, a digital space to publish the entire range of cooperation services it offers.

**Liza Aragón, Deputy Director of Strategic Development Analysis at the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN)**, presented the [Catalogue of Guatemala's International Cooperation Offer](#), whose purpose is to complement the promotion of Guatemala as a cooperation provider country.

**Jackson Bien Aime, First Deputy Director at the Department of Economic Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Haiti**, thanked the organisers of the event and pointed out that, in recent decades, the Republic of Haiti has made South-South cooperation a priority and highlighted successful experiences in the areas of education and food, among others. He stressed that security is the number one priority. In this regard, he reiterated the call made to the UN to

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strengthen security in his country. He also highlighted the successful experience of triangular cooperation between Haiti, Cuba and Brazil and the work that, together with Mexico, they have developed in the field of agriculture.

**SESSION II. OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION.** This session was moderated by Francis Fuentes, Head of Technical Cooperation at the Andean Community (CAN), who thanked for the invitation to the event, briefly summarised the topics to be discussed and introduced the speakers.

**Fatih Abdi Cetin, Representative of the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination in Central America and the Caribbean (TIKA)** made a heartfelt reference to the terrible earthquake that struck his country. He went on to say that no matter how rich or developed countries may be, cooperation must be there.

**Sasaki Kenta, Deputy Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the Dominican Republic.** During his presentation on [Triangular Cooperation of JICA in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), he briefly reviewed the triangular cooperation that the agency conducts in the region, stressing the importance of the equal treatment given to countries for the development of cooperation actions and how this work has allowed the accumulation of best practices and technical training for the benefit of the countries. He complemented this with concrete examples of JICA triangular cooperation in the region in the following areas: health, public safety, disaster risk reduction, MSME productivity, education, and community and sustainable tourism.

**Esteban López, Representative of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in the Dominican Republic.** He said that he based his intervention on the public document [Spanish Triangular Cooperation with Latin America](#), available on the AECID website. He expressed his appreciation for the different experiences shared by the countries during the event, which, he emphasised, showed the progress made in cooperation issues. He then indicated that triangular cooperation is a priority for his country and is reflected in AECID's actions; he mentioned the principles that will govern Spain's triangular cooperation, namely: horizontality, mutual benefit, leadership of the recipient country, effectiveness and efficiency, and mutual accountability. He then listed some of AECID's objectives, including the promotion of SSC as an ideal way to advance the development of the countries in the region; the achievement of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda; the establishment of partnerships with emerging countries and/or triangular cooperation graduates; and the promotion of innovation. He added that, within the framework of future opportunities to implement actions in Latin America and the Caribbean, partnerships with the European Union, with the United Nations System, specifically with ECLAC and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and with the OECD are also being considered. He also indicated that the AECID intends to expand its work to include civil society actors.

**María González, Head of Cooperation in the Dominican Republic, Adelante 2 Programme – European Union,** based her participation on the experience of the European Union in triangular cooperation, considered a substantial tool for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. She highlighted the two main mechanisms for this purpose, namely: the *Regional Programme EuroSocial +* and the [Adelante 2 Programme](#). The latter, she explained, is divided into three components: Operational, Analytical and Institutional. The Operational component is aimed at mobilising and channelling resources towards partnerships or alliances between entities in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Analytical component aims to generate knowledge on triangular cooperation through studies and the design of instruments to acquire triangular cooperation capacities, with the aim of positioning this cooperation model as an increasingly relevant practice for strengthening the networks that are generated; and finally, the Institutional

component, which allows, through dialogue, the development of triangular cooperation funds with certain countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay. This component seeks to strengthen dialogue with development agencies and deepen the debate on the capacity of triangular cooperation.

**Franzia Edwards, Director of the Partnerships and Project Support Department at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, gave a presentation on [The CARICOM Secretariat: Experience with South-South and Trilateral Cooperation](#). First, she gave an overview of CARICOM; then, she identified the different experiences in cooperation with different Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as with other international organisations. Finally, she identified the opportunities through cooperation, highlighting the following issues: economic integration, innovation and development, promotion of a unified market, emphasising that social development and human development are the most relevant issues. Other issues identified as relevant for possible cooperation agreements included food security, youth development, cultural development, strengthening resilience to natural disasters and the development of a Spanish language learning programme.

**Daniela Ibarra Diaz and Emily Tangarife, Consultant and Specialist, respectively, of the SEDI/OAS Technical Cooperation Section - Inter-American Agency for Development Cooperation (IACD) and CooperaNet**. In her presentation on [SEDI/OEA](#), Emily Tangarife provided an overview of the organisation. She pointed out that the OAS, through SEDI, has the greatest willingness to work on cooperation issues, both with the agencies of the countries in the region, as well as with international cooperation agencies. Daniela Ibarra introduced the Cooperanet tool, which facilitates the exchange of information between countries, promoting and encouraging cooperation projects, alliances and exchanges between experts and partners.

The moderator concluded session II by thanking each of the panellists for their participation, indicating that through these presentations it was possible to demonstrate the opportunities provided by specialised cooperation agencies for the countries of the region. She invited the participants to express their concerns regarding the ideas expressed by the panellists, thus initiating a period of open interventions.

**Enrique Oviedo**, from ECLAC, said that after seeing all the presentations of the day, he had two comments to incorporate into the discussion; the first was the valuation given to South-South cooperation, i.e., the quantification or measurement of the monetarisation of these mechanisms. In this regard, he said that he would like to know if there are countries that have developed a methodology in this regard. Secondly, he raised the question: What is the weight of the institutional variable in the development of South-South cooperation?

**Juan Manuel Escalante**, Director of Bi-Multilateral and South-South International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador (MREMH), said that cooperation in Ecuador is seen as a foreign policy tool, still under development, and that it is a challenge for the country to assume the dual role of provider and recipient of cooperation. For this reason, he added that, together with ECLAC, they are working to institutionalise the management of cooperation in Ecuador.

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### **SESSION III. INITIATIVES DEVELOPED BY SPECIALISED INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS THAT STRENGTHEN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTRC) IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

This session was moderated by Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), who greeted the audience and introduced the speakers.

**Rodrigo Castañeda, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the Dominican Republic**, developed the theme [\*FAO and South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean\*](#), pointing out that the mandate of the organisation is the eradication of hunger. He said that more than 60 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from hunger, and that this is not attributable to food production, but to the economic inability of the population to have access to food. He stated that the FAO, through the SSC, participates in strengthening institutions, public policy programmes, regulations, and technical assistance.

**Nadine Piefer-Söyler, Policy Analyst, Policy Foresight, Outreach and Reform, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, spoke about [\*Triangular cooperation\*](#). She emphasised that the OECD strongly believes in triangular cooperation. In this context, she explained that her organisation specialises in the formulation of public policies that strengthen triangular cooperation, and therefore outlined the benefits of this cooperation model, as well as the fundamental pillars that make it up. Finally, she added that as a result of this type of cooperation, all participants benefit, both the recipient and the providers, because, she said, everyone learns.

**Mónica Ayala, Head of the Cooperation and Training Department of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)**. In her presentation on [\*Trade promotion mechanisms from ALADI\*](#), she reviewed ALADI's actions and mechanisms for cooperation linked to intra-regional trade. She noted that this objective has been achieved through the implementation of a Network of Trade Agreements that have incorporated technical assistance and a regional reference mechanism for consultation, as well as the use of tools for the promotion of SMEs.

**Francis Fuentes, Head of Technical Cooperation at the Andean Community (CAN)**. In her presentation entitled [\*Andean Community: 53 years of integration\*](#), she referred to the development of CAN's activities and functions. With regard to technical cooperation, she pointed out the following aspects: the constant increase in cooperation over the last 20 years, through different strategic partners, with a sub-regional focus; and the creation of the Andean Community Initiatives Fund in 2021. Finally, she highlighted the creation of the Regional Centre for Phytosanitary Intelligence as an initiative developed within the framework of food security.

**Gloria Sandoval, Director General of Project Execution Abroad of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)**, referred to the development of a joint work initiative with FAO Mesoamerica within the framework of food and nutritional security, in which the sense of ownership exercised by the beneficiaries of the programme stands out. She stressed that the AMEXCID-FAO *Mesoamerica without Hunger* programme is a SSTC initiative jointly led by the Government of Mexico together with AMEXCID and FAO. She added that this initiative has managed to generate the necessary synergies to achieve the objectives among the countries involved. She concluded her presentation with the video [\*Mesoamerica without Hunger\*](#), showing the results of the programme.

#### **SESSION IV. INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, TO ADVANCE IN SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEVELOPMENT.**

This session was moderated by Martha Medina, Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay (MRE), who greeted all participants and organisers before introducing the session and the speakers who participated.

**Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**, thanked for the invitation to participate in the event. He presented the [\*Concepts and measurements for a renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean\*](#), giving an overview of the region and its economic behaviour and highlighting the historical milestones that have affected economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. He stressed that there has been an increase in the institutionalisation of cooperation by the countries to improve economic and social growth. He added that ECLAC has proposed three interpretative frameworks to rethink the criteria for allocating international cooperation resources to Latin American and Caribbean countries, namely: Structural Gaps; Middle Income Traps; and Development in Transition: Structural Gaps; Middle Income Traps; and Development in Transition. He indicated that, given the contrast in indicators among the countries of the region, it is necessary to take urgent action, a new classification to understand development needs beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA). For all of the above reasons, he said that it is necessary to move from the concept of graduation to that of grading. Finally, he pointed out the importance of designing a methodology to measure the impact of SSTC in order to gather empirical evidence and increase the mobilisation of additional cooperation resources.

**Inés Tofalo, Project Management Specialist, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**. In her presentation on [\*SSC funds administered by UNOSSC\*](#), she informed that this Office operates through three pillars: direct support to governments for the development of their capacities and joint policies; support to the United Nations System and promotion of knowledge sharing; and capacity building and technology transfer, all of them within the framework of the SSTC. Finally, she informed about the different funds administered by the Agency: Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, India-United Nations Development Alliance Fund, IBSA Fund (India, Brazil and South Africa) and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.

**Jorge Montesinos, Head of the Training and Cooperation Programme of the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development (ALIDE)**, developed the topic [\*South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LAC\*](#). He gave a general overview of ALIDE and cited examples of how the Association is linked to SSC through the banking institutions that make up its network and the transfer of knowledge through internships and training activities.

**Ricardo Rozemberg, Specialist at the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL-IDB)**. In his presentation, he argued that SSC has gained momentum at least in the last 20 years. He explained that during this period, the growth of the region's business sector and the increase in trade between the countries of the South has been evident, thanks to the strengthening of actions linked to SSC. He assured that the IDB has mechanisms that generate cooperation through initiatives such as the *Regional Public Goods Programme (BPR)* and *Intra-regional Technical Cooperation (CT/INTRA)*.

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**William Palacios, Project Executive of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) in the Dominican Republic**, began his presentation with a brief overview of CABEI. He then outlined some reflections on SSC and, finally, he showed some of the initiatives that the bank undertakes at the regional level, giving as an example the financing granted for the establishment of an electricity network that benefits 40 million people in the Central American region.

**Jackson Bien Aime, First Deputy Director at the Department of Economic Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Haiti**, posed the following question to Inés Tofalo, Project Management Specialist at the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC): *Do you think that the principles of respect for the countries receiving funding take into account the geopolitical and economic interests of the countries funding the projects?* Ms. Tofalo replied that, in reference to UNOSSC funded projects, the principles are given by the member countries; however, for their implementation there are no very precise guidelines. She explained that UNOSSC works to build capacities on how projects should be conceived integrating SSC, how to implement projects with a supervisory board and how to evaluate such projects considering the SSC principles.

### **SESSION V. CHALLENGES OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**

**Ambassador Cindy Larissa Rodríguez, Under-Secretary for International Cooperation and Promotion of Honduras (SRECI)**, referred to [International Cooperation in Honduras: South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#), highlighting the gender approach as a fundamental element in the various government actions. She also highlighted the creation of a National Cooperation Policy for Sustainable Development. Subsequently, she presented the Catalogue of the Cooperation Offer called "Sharing Honduras." She explained that the challenges facing Honduras include the creation of an SSC fund, the strengthening of relations with regional and extra-regional organisations and progress on a national policy to boost decentralised cooperation. Finally, she presented a promotional [video](#).

**Carmen María Marroquín, Director for Cooperation of the Central American Integration System (SICA)**, made a presentation on the [Proposal for the creation of the SICA South-South and Triangular Cooperation Fund](#), pointing out the position of each of the countries in reference to ODA, stating that, based on this valuation mechanism, some SICA Member States have been left out of the scope of this mechanism. She then offered an overview of the different agreements and mechanisms that SICA has implemented in support of the SSTC. She also emphasised the process initiated for the creation of the SICA Fund for Cooperation.

**Giselle Gibson, Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration of Belize (MFA)**, based her presentation on the challenges that SSC poses for her country, specifically for technical assistance programmes and projects. She stressed that it is vitally important for Belize to integrate cooperation into the government's lines of action. She pointed out that there are limitations to organising and making the most of cooperation, such as the absence of a single governmental entity in charge of the issue.

**Denis Nkala, Chief of Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs at the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**, discussed the topic [Updates on UNOSSC support to intergovernmental processes on South-South cooperation](#). He said that after listening to the interventions of each of the countries, he was pleasantly surprised by the level of involvement in the issue of South-South cooperation. He stressed that his work is related to the management of funds and support to States in the implementation of this cooperation model. He added that UNOSSC has identified guidelines to assist States in the development of their policies and that in the area of

cooperation there are elements to make it more linear, more horizontal, more standardised, to contribute to monitoring, which is the best way to deliver development results. He noted that it is a wonderful opportunity to be able to integrate all the experiences presented by the countries in the training phase planned for the use and application of the South Galaxy platform, a tool for interacting with the various cooperation partners. In addition, he commented on the work initiated by the United Nations Statistical Commission for the measurement of SSC.

The moderator closed the session, thanked the panellists for their participation and invited the participants to express their concerns regarding the ideas expressed by the panellists, thus initiating a period of open interventions.

**Vice-Minister Olaya Dotel** highlighted two aspects raised by the panellists. The first had to do with the need to promote a greater level of coordination among regional mechanisms on cooperation issues. She added that, although resources are scarce, the aim should be to make better use of them and to reduce possible overlaps between them. The second refers to the fact that, in a context of climate change, our region is the most affected, especially the Caribbean, which is why it is necessary to work on funds to address these issues from the perspective of cooperation.

**Yulian Mabel Reyes Caballero, representative of the Cuban Embassy in the Dominican Republic**, noted that Cuba put into effect [\*Decree-Law No. 16/2020 on International Cooperation\*](#) referring to what is offered and demanded by her country, which determines the conceptualisation and frameworks for approval, among other aspects. She stressed that among the challenges of Cuban cooperation is the restriction to operate in North American currency. In addition, she pointed out that they are working with the Office of Statistics to discuss the issue of the valorisation of cooperation in which Cuba has intervened and noted that they are working on a platform to show all the cooperation offer that Cuba can provide.

**Francis Fuentes, representative of the Andean Community (CAN)**, praised the initiative of holding this meeting to involve the countries and the different regional secretariats, making it possible to gain knowledge and share experiences, as well as to achieve a more efficient and effective coordination among all.

**Juan Carlos Sánchez, Director General of Planning of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Finance and Public Credit**, pointed out that all the experiences shared during the meeting should be systematised and invited the audience to take a look at the ECLAC South-South conference. He commented that the ECLAC publication [\*Development in transition: proposed concept and measurement for a renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean\*](#) deals with concepts and measurements for a renewed cooperation in LAC and assesses the decrease in Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the criteria linked to the GDP that is currently granted to the countries.

### III.- CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### A. Conclusions

At the end of the day, a space was opened to comment on the conclusions of the activity based on each of the interventions of the panellists, as well as the observations and suggestions made.

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- 1) In Latin America and the Caribbean there is an imperative need to redouble efforts to meet and align the objectives of the 2030 agenda and to strengthen spaces for regional cooperation and integration.
- 2) The potential of SSC should be a foreign policy of each country in the region through, among other means, the establishment of agreements between academia and the private sector.
- 3) One of the most important challenges for the implementation of SSC initiatives in some Latin American and Caribbean countries is the lack of a fund earmarked for this purpose.
- 4) The meeting served to learn about the progress and best practices developed by some Member States in the preparation and development of catalogues on their cooperation offer.
- 5) It is very important for the region to define innovative mechanisms for financing South-South and Triangular cooperation, as well as to advance in new definitions and concepts that benefit middle-income countries for their participation in Official Development Assistance (ODA), given that, being considered middle-income countries, there are still weaknesses and/or needs that can be solved through ODA.
- 6) It is necessary to maintain the continuity of cooperation projects with a view to consolidating SDG 16 in order to strengthen citizen security in the countries of the region.
- 7) Countries have gone from being net cooperation recipients to cooperation providers, with the opportunity to work on the basis of the principles of efficiency, horizontality, interests and mutual responsibility, benefiting the region's population.
- 8) International Development Cooperation is one of the most effective tools on the path to sustainable development in the region, with a view to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.
- 9) Through the institutional framework, progress can be made in the calculation of homogeneous indicators of the impact of cooperation, whether measured by quantification or by the monetarisation of these mechanisms.
- 10) The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight the cooperation work conducted in the area of food security and served as a showcase for countries in need of capacity building in this sector. It was also a good opportunity for participants to learn about first-hand experiences, best practices and results obtained in various countries, as well as to capture key ideas for debate in their own contexts.
- 11) Participants welcomed the willingness of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to continue its commitment to facilitate, promote and coordinate activities to strengthen the international cooperation system, especially through South-South and Triangular cooperation. Therefore, the Permanent Secretariat reiterated its commitment to continue to make progress and consolidate its support through the Technical Working Group on Cooperation, as approved by the XLVII Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA (Caracas, 29 and 30 November 2022).

### B. Recommendations

- 1) Advance towards greater integration, not only in terms of geography but also in terms of cultural identity.

- 2) Promote the active incorporation of platforms that facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and promote interaction between the supply and demand of international cooperation, which, in turn, helps even out the levels of cooperation between the countries of the region.
- 3) Foster the institutionalisation of new mechanisms for the mobilisation of resources for development, with a view to fostering decentralised cooperation, promoting local and territorial development, as well as the gender approach.
- 4) Boost the necessary efforts to define a governance model for the management of cooperation funds.
- 5) Leverage strategic multi-stakeholder alliances that include academia and civil society with a view to attracting the private sector as a key partner to achieve the objectives through cooperation programmes and actions.
- 6) Align the offers with the identified needs of the partner countries, following the principles of SSC through the transfer of knowledge, always keeping a close accompaniment in the definition and development of the initiative, under the leadership of the applicant for a greater ownership of the project.
- 7) Strengthen the institutional framework for South-South and Triangular cooperation to facilitate the conditions that allow countries to obtain better results. One path to follow is that of each cooperation entity or agency's own funds for a more effective development of its objectives.
- 8) Analyse and follow up closely and consistently with a view to intelligently adopting, through innovative public policies, the best practices identified with the goal of accelerating the progress of cooperation in the region as an element that contributes to the integration process.
- 9) Promote a higher level of coordination among regional cooperation mechanisms and, at the same time, focus on a better use of resources by reducing the overlapping in the actions of these mechanisms.
- 10) Work more on the funds required to meet the needs arising from climate change.

#### **IV.- CHALLENGES OF COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean faces the following challenges:

- 1) Be based on the development problems and opportunities of the countries.
- 2) Include all countries regardless of their income level.
- 3) Recognise a regional perspective to strengthen cooperation among countries and common positions at the multilateral level.
- 4) Ensure access to concessional financing for all middle-income countries, especially smaller economies.

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- 5) Formulate public policies aimed at boosting decentralised cooperation, guaranteeing the participation of local governments, and focusing on the future of the people.
- 6) Improve capacities to implement measures for adaptation and resilience to climate change and disaster risk management.
- 7) Recognise their regional strategies.
- 8) Recognise the commitment and full participation of countries in transition to development: South-South and Triangular cooperation.