

## **Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its eleventh session**

**1 June – 4 June 1999 (Decision taken on June 4)**

- 11/1 Review of progress made in implementing technical cooperation among developing countries
  - A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission Report
  - B. Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries
- 11/2 Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries
- 11/3 Provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

## Annex I

### Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its eleventh session

11/1

**Review of progress made in implementing technical cooperation among developing countries**

**A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission report**

*The High-level Committee,*

*Reaffirming* the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,<sup>a</sup>

*Recalling* the General Assembly resolutions on technical cooperation among developing countries, the latest of which were resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and section II.E.1 of resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998,

*Noting with satisfaction* the success of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, including the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 7 October 1998, which, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the continued validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and called for increased and expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in development cooperation,

*Noting* the high-level panel discussion organized by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on building partnerships for South-South cooperation in the new millennium, as well as the exhibition entitled "Building Bridges Across the South" held in the context of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

*Taking note* of the final document of the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,<sup>b</sup> in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation is emphasized,

*Taking note also* of the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 1998,<sup>c</sup> in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation is emphasized,

*Taking note further* of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,<sup>d</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the great potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective

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<sup>a</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

<sup>b</sup> A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I.

<sup>c</sup> A/53/466, annex.

<sup>d</sup> TCDC/11/1.

instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries to further continue to elaborate national policies and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation:

2. *Welcomes* the significant increase in technical cooperation among developing countries activities, both in number and in sectoral coverage, reported by developing countries and the United Nations system;

3. *Also welcomes* the growing interest in and support for technical cooperation among developing countries by a number of donors, including through triangular arrangements or through bilateral and multilateral channels;

4. *Reaffirms* the call on all partners in the development effort to give first consideration to the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in their technical cooperation programmes and projects;

5. *Encourages* developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and, where focal points have already been established, to ensure their effective and efficient functioning;

6. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance, as well as a means of ensuring the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy;

7. *Stresses also* the need for further concerted efforts to be made by the United Nations organizations and agencies, including the regional commissions, to increasingly integrate technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes, policies and procedures;

8. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

9. *Also reiterates* the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the use of technical resources from other developing countries;

10. *Welcomes* the increased interregional technical cooperation among developing countries activities undertaken by both developing countries and the United Nations system, such as the exchanges among countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. *Invites* developed, developing countries and other members of the international community, given the importance accorded to South-South cooperation, to increase financial resources for such cooperation;

12. *Urges* international organizations and donor countries, in the context of triangular arrangements and the increased use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, to increase their financial and other support for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

13. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its twelfth session a comprehensive biennial report on the progress

made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as well as on the implementation of the present decision.

**B. Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries**

*The High-level Committee,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and 52/205 of 18 December 1997, as well as the related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

*Recalling* its decisions 9/2 of 2 June 1995 and 10/1 B of 9 May 1997 on the “Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries”,

*Reaffirming* the continued relevance and validity of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

*Stressing* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences and for ensuring their participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

1. *Recognizes* that important progress has been made by Member States and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and, in this context, commends the efforts of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in orienting its activities fully in line with the new directions strategy;

2. *Recognizes also* that, while progress has been made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, further progress can be achieved through, *inter alia*, the availability and provision of adequate resources, strengthening the participating institutions and enhancing the awareness of and the commitment to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

3. *Stresses the need* to further mobilize additional financial resources, from all sources, with a view to assisting the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to further implement and operationalize the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, particularly for ensuring their participation in the newly emerging global economic system;

4. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

5. *Commends* the ongoing efforts being made by national Governments and the international community to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that a growing number of developing countries are taking a pivotal role in initiating, sponsoring and funding, from their own resources, technical cooperation among developing countries activities aimed at involving a large number of developing countries, welcomes, in this context, the broad criteria, highlighted in the report on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy,<sup>e</sup> for identifying future pivotal countries, as advanced at the meeting on pivotal countries held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1997, and requests the Special Unit to further refine these criteria for wider application;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the financial contribution of some developed countries to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

8. *Encourages* all countries to make an effort, in the context of the new directions strategy, to support economic and technical cooperation activities among developing countries, particularly those that have a major impact on a large number of developing countries, through contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

9. *Requests* the Special Unit to present to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session a detailed report on the management and use of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation;

10. *Also requests* the Special Unit to document and disseminate information on successful efforts to utilize technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as well as on triangular cooperation arrangements with a view to encouraging greater use by Member States of such cooperation modality in their development cooperation programmes;

11. *Calls upon* the Special Unit to facilitate adequate support for various arrangements of technical cooperation among developing countries in the fields of research, science and technology, and to include the relevant information in this regard in the context of the report referred to in paragraph 19 of the present decision;

12. *Welcomes* the launching of the technical cooperation among developing countries home page by some developing countries as well as the effort being made by the Special Unit in expanding the Information Referral System into a multidimensional web of information for development; and in that regard encourages the Special Unit to establish a network among focal points of developing countries and invites all countries to make optimal use of the web, and further invites all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations to make an effort to strengthen the linkages between their respective information systems relevant to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and the web of information for development system;

13. *Urges* all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to intensify efforts to ensure mainstreaming of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their regular programmes and activities, taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject,<sup>f</sup> which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, and, in this context, requests the Special Unit, in consultation with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, to develop common

<sup>e</sup> TCDC/11/2.

<sup>f</sup> A/53/266/Add.4.

indicators for measuring progress and results in implementing these recommendations on a system-wide basis;

14. *Calls upon* developing, developed and other countries, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

15. *Requests* the Special Unit to ensure the effective implementation of the new directions strategy in Africa, bearing in mind the priority areas identified by African countries themselves in the Cairo Agenda for Action, as well as the Tokyo Agenda for Action, which stressed, among other things, the principles of accelerated economic growth for poverty reduction and further integration of the continent into the global economy in addition to the concepts of ownership and global partnership;

16. *Welcomes* the role of the Special Unit on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in supporting initiatives with regard to small island developing States, including the preparation of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme and the launching of a pilot Small Island Developing States Information Network, and urges further collaboration in this regard;

17. *Emphasizes* that, in the context of the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, the landlocked, transit developing countries and the donor countries and financial and development institutions should cooperate and intensify their efforts in order to overcome the transit transport problems, *inter alia*, through improving and further developing the transit transport infrastructure facilities and services and strengthening the institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, with a view to expanding trade and achieving more equitable integration into the global economy;

18. *Calls upon* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained, and decides to periodically review the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a system-wide basis;

19. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session information on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, with emphasis on the implementation of the present decision.

11/2

**Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries**

*The High-level Committee,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly took note of the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> E/1997/110, annex.

*Recalling also its decision 10/2 of 9 May 1997,*

1. *Takes note of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;*<sup>h</sup>

2. *Recalls General Assembly resolution 52/205, in which the Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other relevant organizations, taking into account their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to undertake jointly further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the implementation of and follow-up to the San José Declaration and Plan of Action<sup>i</sup> adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance as well as on the Bali Declaration on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries within the context of South-South cooperation;*

3. *Takes note of the views expressed at the eleventh session of the High-level Committee, in particular those pertaining to the effective utilization of the guidelines to fully integrate and significantly increase the use of the technical cooperation modality in the development cooperation programmes;*

4. *Decides to review the revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its twelfth session in the year 2001;*

5. *Stresses that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and, in this context, recalls General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, in paragraph 43 of which the Assembly requested the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;*

6. *Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in relation to the mandated functions and increasing responsibilities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, to ensure that the Special Unit is adequately staffed so as to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively;*

7. *Also requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session.*

**11/3**

**Provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries**

*The High-level Committee,*

*Taking into account the views expressed at its eleventh session,*

1. *Approves the following provisional agenda for its twelfth session, to be held in 2001:*

<sup>h</sup> TCDC/11/3.

<sup>i</sup> A/C.2/52/8, annex.

1. Opening of the session.
  2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee.
  3. Progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries.
  4. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:
    - (a) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries;
    - (b) Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, informational and financial arrangements).
  5. Thematic discussion (including presentation of country experiences): theme to be decided on the basis of consultations by the Bureau with representatives of Member States on the theme proposed by the Group of 77 and China.
  6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.
  7. Approval of the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee.
  8. Other matters.
  9. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its twelfth session.
2. *Requests* its Bureau, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to adjust the provisional agenda for the twelfth session, as approved at the eleventh session, taking fully into account the results of the eleventh session, as well as developments relevant to technical cooperation among developing countries throughout the world, including at the United Nations and other important international forums.

**Annex II****List of documents before the High-level Committee at its eleventh session**

TCDC/11/L.1	Organizational meeting, New York, 4 May 1999
TCDC/11/L.2	Provisional annotated agenda, including list of documents
TCDC/11/L.3	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
TCDC/11/1	Review of the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the decisions of the High-level Committee and the recommendations of the South Commission
TCDC/11/2	Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/11/3	Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

