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Opening Statement

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM
ARGENTINA HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM OF THE

**“South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda:
Building Innovative and Inclusive Partnerships”**

San Martín Palace, Buenos Aires, 7 September 2017

Honorable Vice President Gabriela Michetti,
Honorable Minister Jorge Faurie,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join Her Excellency Ms. Gabriela Michetti and His Excellency Mr. Jorge Faurie, in welcoming you to this important Symposium. I convey my warm greetings to all participants. Thank you for joining us here, the first time we bring the DCF to Latin America and the Caribbean.

I also thank the Government of Argentina for making this High-level Symposium possible. Their dedicated support gives timely demonstration and momentum to revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

Forty years ago in this beautiful city, governments adopted the historic Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The decades since have brought fundamental shifts in the development landscape. These shifts have been marked by the growing complexity of challenges and diversification of actors. We have also seen the scope and scale of the cooperation expand beyond what was anticipated in 1978. Nor did we know that the world would transform into a global village, with deep interdependence.

Now we have a new vision -- an ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The time is ripe to reflect on how South-South and triangular cooperation can better contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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Excellencies,

A recent survey of developing countries, by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, found that two thirds of the respondents are currently engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation. Many reported that they had a dedicated entity responsible for such cooperation. This is, indeed, very encouraging. But we need to ensure that it has higher impact.

Excellencies,

You may already know that the BRICS Summit and the Dialogue between Emerging Market and Developing countries just took place in Xia Men respectively on 4th and 5th September. What is relevant to our

symposium today is that both the BRICS Summit and the Dialogue voiced the strong support for South-South cooperation. President Xi announced at the meeting that China will provide 500 million US dollars to support South-South cooperation. The funds will be used to tackle challenges such as famine, refugees, climate change and public health.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This two-day Symposium aims for frank and focused discussion among a range of stakeholders. Please, look around this room. You represent governments, civil society organizations, academia, multilateral development banks and international organizations, as well as members of parliament and local authorities.

Together, we will examine the evolution and distinctive strengths of South-South and triangular cooperation. We will identify the opportunities and challenges confronted by these forms of cooperation, considering both financial and non-financial aspects.

We will exchange practical knowledge and lessons learned. This will include how South-South and triangular cooperation can further utilize multi-stakeholder approaches, and capitalize on the comparative strengths of the range of actors, including the private sector, in support of national sustainable development priorities.

We are grounded in the understanding that it is the developing countries who define their cooperation and measure its contribution. We will

share experiences in strengthening institutional capacities for all relevant actors – including ways to promote more reality-based, results-focused South-South and triangular cooperation.

We will explore the potential role of multi-lateral development banks – including those led by the Southern partners – to enhance the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

As South-South and triangular cooperation expand in their thematic scope and engagement of actors, we are also keen to discuss their concrete role in mobilizing science, technology and innovation (STI), as well as in implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From Bandung to Buenos Aires to present day, the narrative of South-South and triangular cooperation has always been about delivering practical impacts for structural change in both productive and social sectors. It has been about delivering practical solutions for building capacity and reducing vulnerabilities, to leave no one behind. Let us keep this focus in mind, today and on the road to the 2018 Development Cooperation Forum, the 2019 BAPA+40 conference and beyond.

While we know pretty well that South-South cooperation is complementary to North-South Cooperation in the overall context of international cooperation for development, we acknowledge the pressing need

for clearly-defined frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation. That is why the underlying objective of this Symposium is to generate the practical policy recommendations -- on how to boost their growth, quality and contribution to sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are holding this meeting in uncertain times, marked by increasing natural disasters, conflicts, terrors, inequalities and unprecedented migration. Please do not treat this Symposium as a “listen and leave” occasion. We are here to share our experiences and expertise, generate ideas and recommendations, and even forge new partnerships amongst ourselves. This is the spirit of the Development Cooperation Forum. This is why it is such a vital platform for realizing our collective vision towards more results-based, equitable and people-centered cooperation.

I wish the Symposium a great success.

Thank you.
