

Opening Ceremony of the Global South-South

Expo 2014

Remarks by Rebeca Grynspan,

Ibero-American Secretary-General

Monday, November 17th, 2014

- **Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) - Mr. José Miguel Insulza**
- **President of the UN High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation - H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abul Momen**
- **Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) - Mr. Li Yong**
- **Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Mr. Christian Friis Bach**
- **Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP - Ms. Gina Casar**
- **Envoy of the UN Secretary General and Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation - Mr. Yiping Zhou**
- **Group of 77 Secretariat - Mr. Mohamed AHmian**

- **Distinguished friends and colleagues, first of all I would like to thank the organizers of this Expo, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and our dear host, Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza, for inviting me and the Ibero-American General Secretariat to this South-South Global Expo, which I have attended since 2012 from my former UNDP functions. We should actually congratulate the organizers for putting together once again this Expo, on its seventh edition since the first meeting in New York, in 2008.**

- **As we are all aware, major changes in the development landscape have placed the South firmly at the forefront of the global development discourse. This year's South-South Expo happens amid intense international efforts to accelerate progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the end of next year, while we work on the definition of the next global development agenda after 2015.**

At the same time, the South has assumed a greater role in the global development landscape. As a source of innovation, knowledge, and solutions to development challenges, the South is influencing development cooperation at the global, regional, national, and local levels, making relevant contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. It has become clear that when discussing about development we can learn a lot from each other but there is NO one size fits all kind of solution and that we all have a lot to teach and a lot to learn from each other at the same time collaborate is essential in the globalized world.

- In Ibero-America, the community I represent, we are convinced of the fundamental contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to advancing development and tackling common challenges. Indeed, as I have said many**

times, we know that solutions often emerge from where the challenges are!

- **We have heard the calls of our countries to implement concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in order to help countries build their capacities for maximizing the benefits and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation and for learning from each other forging strategic partnerships aimed at accelerating social and economic development in developing countries through transfer of knowledge, experience and effective policy practices.**
- **And this is precisely the aim of this Global Expo: working together to find "solutions" that enable us to advance towards a common goal: Sustainable Development.**

- **Which is only attainable if we do focus on the triple wins, meaning, eradicate poverty, while simultaneously fostering inclusive growth within the limits of the planet. We need to promote economic and social progress that is compatible with environmental sustainability.**

- **And all countries and actors share the responsibility of making it happen.**

- **Now that we are in the midst of discussing the Post-2015 Agenda, the debate revolves around two major questions: what our objective is, and how we will achieve it.**

- **So is not only the WHAT but also the HOW: part of the Post-2015 Agenda is about discussing how to finance Sustainable Development. To that end, and as you all know, the Third International Conference on Financing for**

Development will be held in Addis Ababa on July 13-16, 2015.

- **This Global South-South Expo offers the possibility of connecting both issues, the what and the how, as the goal is for us to share those experiences that enable us to advance towards achieving Sustainable Development, in this case highlighting the contribution of South-South Cooperation.**
- **Experience to knowledge piloting to scale up adaptation and understanding to conditioner of success and the reasons for failure to replicate.**
- **There is considerable data to illustrate the growing importance of South-South Cooperation. In fact, according to the most recent United Nations Secretary-General Report on the “State of SSC” (July 17, 2014) and the report from the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Financing Sustainable Development (August 15, 2014),**

between 2006 and 2011, the estimated value of SSC doubled, to between 16.1 and 19 billion dollars (equivalent to 10% of public financing flows at global level). However, the same sources estimate that its real value is certainly much higher, as SSC takes different shapes, many of which are not economically accounted for in any way.

- **Other data, in connection with South-South Trade and the flows of FDI among countries in the South, reinforces this conclusion. According to the Development Co-operation Report 2014, by the DAC, entitled “Mobilising Resources for Sustainable Development”:**
 - **South-South FDI has been expanding in recent years at an annual rate of 21%. As a result of that growth, developing countries' share of global FDI has increased five-fold in the last three decades: from 6% in 1980 to 31% in 2012.**

- **In the same period, South-South Trade has increased its share of global trade more than three-fold, from 8% previously to 27% currently.**

- **We at the Ibero-American General Secretariat consider that our experience can be useful in two ways: in the South-South Cooperation projects that we are supporting in the region to promote development; and in the enormous effort we are making to collect and systematize data.**

- **On top of that, our South-South cooperation model is truly innovative given that:**
 - **The countries affiliate voluntarily to the programs, according to their development priorities;**
 - **The programs and projects are mainly funded by the participating countries; there is not a donor-recipient logic;**
 - **Their governance is done through an inter-governmental committee;**

- **The technical unit is managed by one of the participating countries, which becomes its headquarters.**

- **As I will discuss in more detail during the Leadership Round Table this afternoon, between 2007 and 2012, Ibero-American countries exchanged close to 7,000 projects and actions under the heading of Bilateral Horizontal South-South Cooperation, and over 550 in Triangular South-South Cooperation.**
All of them have concentrated on strengthening mutual capacities, particularly in the areas such as Education, Health, Agriculture and related industries, Institutional strengthening, the Environment, Sanitation, Waste treatment and Renewable energy.

- **We have made considerable progress in systematizing information, which is reported in our annual Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America. The report,**

which has ran 7 editions so far, offers a comprehensive picture of the South-South Cooperation in which our countries are participating.

- Drafting this report required the development of a conceptual and methodological framework for South-South Cooperation, and the development of systems for logging and reporting on cooperation in our countries. In this regard, our experience could be relevant for promoting the collection of data, and thereby strengthen the capacity for data collection and analysis in developing countries, and for decision-making by those same countries based on empirical data.**
- I hope to elaborate more on these issues this afternoon. For now, I really hope this expo will help all of us to bring South-South cooperation together with the debate on the Post-2015 agenda implementation, drawing from all the experiences we are here to share. Thank you.**