Report to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on Committee on South-South Cooperation
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1 Executive Summary

At its 2022 session, held from the 19th to 22nd of November, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) engaged Member States in dialogue and deliberation regarding South-South cooperation.

With collaboration between the Global South as its key goal, the Commission designated several areas deserving of particular attention including, but not limited to, a coordinating body for Global North aid and the role of foreign direct investment in South-South cooperation.

The first chapter compiles the resolutions recommended by the body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The second chapter summarizes the conversations held by ECLAC regarding each area of focus. A number of concerns and roadblocks were identified and addressed by ECLAC, with recommendations of the body ultimately aligning with core values of state autonomy, cooperation between states and the recognition of the economic systems that marginalize and suppress the economic potential of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The final chapter details the acceptance of this report for ECOSOC’s consideration.
2 Matters calling for action

2.1 ECLAC I/1

Recognizing the importance of trade for economic development and stability within Latin America and the Caribbean,

Affirming the focus on the national sovereignty of all Member States within Latin America and the Caribbean,

Acknowledging the importance of trade for Member States with limited production capacity and export-based economies,

Recalling how trade relationships have historically allowed for economic development and strong regional partnerships,

Observing the importance of South-South cooperation in the enrichment of technological access as it is made available to developing countries,

Viewing with appreciation programs implemented in the past for the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recognizing the need for information sharing by both the Global South and the Global North,

Mindful of how the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of reliable trade relations,

Cognizant of recurring natural disasters in the region that can stifle economic growth,

Recognizing Member States who are facing economic and infrastructure development challenges,

1. **Encourages** the negotiation of both bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to promote economic collaboration and stimulate growth in the region;

2. **Emphasizes** the importance of designing these relationships to increase investment, expand market access, and develop closer international relationships amongst the Member States;

3. **Recommends** strengthening democratic institutions, including but not limited to judicial and legislative branches in the region to facilitate international cooperation, leading to the establishment of bilateral and multilateral trade deals;

4. **Reaffirms** the importance of investment in technology and industry sectors for economic development:
   
   a. **Recommends** investment in sustainable technologies within Latin America and the Caribbean by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
   
   b. **Suggests** the expansion of technology to Member States within Latin America and the Caribbean such as;
      
      i. Renewable energy technologies such as solar energy;
      
      ii. Internet grids;

5. **Supports** technological education and sharing of knowledge from Global North countries to the Global South as a form of building their technological access by enhancing cooperation in line with the goals of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation from 2022-2025 to accelerate the speed and scale of actions toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the continuation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation programs in the development of technology as countries believe fit through:
   
   a. Facilitating and financing technology transfer to consenting developing countries of the Global South;
   
   b. Diversifying the pool of resources through both traditional and new stakeholders including sovereign states, multilateral institutions, the private sectors and foundations to further enhance sustainable, global development partnerships and programs;
   
   c. Providing financial assistance for the development of needed frameworks and infrastructure to make the technology widely available;
7. *Requests* aid from Global North Member States to Global South Member States to provide temporary economic stability throughout economic crisis;

8. *Endorses* investment to improve the trade capabilities of Latin American and Caribbean countries through the expansion of trading partners and development of trade infrastructure including shipping convoys;

9. *Advises* that negotiation parameters are established prior to negotiations, so all the Member States involved are able to maintain full sovereignty;

10. *Suggests* the incorporation of circular economic models to advance sustainable development, stressing a holistic review process which considers, but is not limited to, metrics enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Discourages* the use of trade barriers or restrictions as a means for achieving political goals.
3 Consideration of the status

3.1 Introduction

South-South Cooperation is a collaborative effort, and one necessary to foster national growth and outward-facing self-sufficiency in the Global South. South-South Cooperation aids member states considered to be part of the Global South in bolstering their economies in a way that allows for both autonomy and the protection of national sovereignty. This, however, does not mean that the Member States of the Global North are exempt from or ought to be prohibited from supporting this cooperation. The Commission also recognized that more than the Global South stands to benefit from increased South-South cooperation, and that strengthened ties aid development and growth across the globe. South-South Cooperation stands to greatly benefit all Member States through increase of global stability and economic prosperity, and remains a crucial point of focus for the Economic Committee for the Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in particular, and for the entire international community in general.

In organizing the most important ideas for South-South Cooperation, the body divided itself into targeted issue groups to address crucial elements of the broader topic. The selected issue areas for the drafting of resolutions were as follows: internal and regional infrastructure, technological development, systemic issues with inequality in South-South cooperation, international trade, the environment, national sovereignty and transparency in regards to international aid and the principles of continued South-South cooperation as a whole, and the application of South-South cooperation to these varied and multifaceted issues.

3.2 Autonomy and Transparency

South-South Cooperation is a collaborative effort and is necessary to create interdependence in the Global South. South-South Cooperation allows for the Global South to bolster its economy in a way that allows for both autonomy and sovereignty within the various nations. However, that does not mean that the Global North is exempt or prohibited from supporting this initiative. Triangular cooperation creates a way for southern countries to have freedom in how they use northern aid. It instead utilizes the Global North to help with providing both monetary and non-monetary aid. Discussion was focused around preventing neo-colonialism but also helping to create economic stabilization in the region.

Transparency and communication when creating the framework for aid to the Global South remained important for members of the Global North throughout deliberations. While members understood and emphasized the importance of autonomy for Global South countries they also saw the problems corruption has played in these nations as well. To this extent, a focus was placed on how funds could be best utilized in the international community. Member States criticized the International Monetary Fund for past bias in placing decision making power in the hands of Member States in the Global North and largely overlooking the needs of the Global South.

There were many discussions regarding the issues of South-South Cooperation and aid from the Global North. Many countries felt that they had been ignored throughout the process and that only Latin American powerhouses and the Global North had provided their input on the resolutions dealing with these issues. There was expressed interest in moving forward by having specific input from the Latin American and Caribbean block.

3.3 International Trade

On the topic of international trade, Mexico, Panama, The Republic of Turkiye, Norway, Jamaica and Belize discussed the benefits of strengthening trade relations and improving the global economy. Turkiye proposed the expansion of free trade in Latin America and the Caribbean noting the economic potential of the region. Turkiye also expressed its ability to help Latin American and Caribbean countries fulfill this potential. Turkiye discussed the benefits of the Turkiye-Chile free trade agreement as an example and emphasized how other countries can benefit from similar agreements.

Jamaica brought discussion of fiscal investment in trade capabilities of Caribbean nations through the manufacturing of trade ships and aircrafts to bolster the potential of South-South trade. This was addressed because Jamaica noted that it relies on major trade partners for shipping convoys rather than their own and this is an obstacle for their economic development. Panama contributed by discussing how increased available trade convoys would provide more opportunities for independent trade and South-South trade would be a more achievable goal on an international level. Belize agrees with this notion. Jamaica addressed how international funding for improvements
of existing Jamaican infrastructure must respect Latin American and Caribbean sovereignty and budgeting decisions will be in accordance with the conditions funding is given under.

Belize brought up how establishing reliable trade relations can lead to economic expansion by creating job opportunities, increasing investment, expanding market access, and fostering international relationships. As such, it seeks to deepen trade relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries to promote South-South cooperation and triangular trade relations. This is particularly important for developing countries with agricultural, tourism, and other export-based economies. Other countries included in this discussion echoed this sentiment.

Panama expanded on the previous idea and with the notion that the exchange of trading goods and services drastically increases economic stability. Mexico and Turkiye supported this notion. The export and import of goods and services help to build a stronger economy, which Panama and many other Latin American and Caribbean countries are desperately in need of. Panama and Belize hope that moving forward, there can be increased trade specifically between various Latin American and Caribbean countries. Putting more funding into the transportation of goods, both within the Panama Canal and other routes in the region, would be greatly beneficial. The canal limits the amount of time that it takes for goods to be transported, which is specially important for perishable goods. The delegations present were in agreement.

As a large exporter of fish, oil, gas, and minerals, the delegation of Norway stated that Norway is quite dependent upon trade to maintain a high standard of living for its citizens, and free trade is vital for Norway to succeed. They note their awareness of the struggles of trade, and want to do all within their power and sovereignty to provide aid and infrastructural support to Southern states who need it most.

While Trinidad and Tobago were not directly active in specific efforts involving international trade, delegates from this country participated in initial conversations with the United States, Uruguay, Honduras and Chile about the importance of ensuring Latin American and Caribbean countries have the resources and means to manufacture and process their homegrown products. Trinidad and Tobago’s largest source of revenue is through the export of oil. Their biggest trading partner is the United States, who often process the oil and profit off of Trinidad and Tobago’s raw materials. Providing Latin American and Caribbean countries with the means of processing and exporting valuable, manufactured materials will increase their independence from the Global North and potential for economic sustainability and prosperity.

### 3.4 Infrastructure

The Uruguayan and Colombian delegations primarily coordinated efforts to address infrastructure. A specific concern of this debate was how to address environmental issues relating to infrastructure without interfering in the responsibility of other blocs. As with nearly every debate on Topic I, the issue of aid from the Global North was raised, and the “no strings attached” policy for financial aid to the Global South was endorsed by the delegation to limit potential influence by former colonial powers.

Members considered a draft resolution based on the idea that Latin American and Caribbean countries share similar, though not identical, economic, cultural and geographical circumstances and that similar ideas can be used for the maintenance and improvement of their respective infrastructure situations. Regional infrastructure needs can be organized into a few succinct categories: structural, transportation, economic and the addressing of regional needs can be greatly aided through multilateral South-South cooperation.

In conversation with the delegations of the United States and Jamaica, the delegation of the Portuguese Republic placed wording in a proposed draft resolution (resolution AA) to address the provision of non-monetary aid for infrastructural development and to add an additional emphasis on aid aimed at addressing regional South-South cooperation on transportation infrastructure.

There was a large amount of discussion surrounding infrastructure and infrastructural development as an issue to be addressed under the aegis of Topic I: South-South Cooperation throughout the first two days of deliberation. Despite the early discussion surrounding this issue, through informal conversation it was decided by the consensus of the body that the effort of discussion and of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean recommendations on this specific issue would be instead addressed under Topic II: The Inefficiencies of Inequality. In keeping with this understanding between the representatives of the Commission, other than the language added to the previously mentioned draft resolution the issue of infrastructure was not addressed in this report for Topic I: South-South Cooperation.
3.5 Education

The delegations of Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Bahamas and Cuba originally planned to address the quality of education in Latin America and the Caribbean. These delegations discussed the need for improvement of education and how some Western countries could give resources to improve education within South America. There was discussion around also working with education-focused non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) specifically working with non-governmental organizations that provide teachers. A consensus was acknowledged that there is a need to improve education within Latin American and Caribbean countries. Although, it was quickly decided that the improvement of education was more aligned with Topic 2: The inefficiency of inequality.

During the process, the delegation of Aruba, in conjunction with delegations representing the majority of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, strongly supported educational support to combat climate change, as well as to address the existing data gaps within Southern countries that inhibit further action towards sustainable development. Education also represents an avenue for diversification of the economy as we move into a more connected and globally competitive world. In such a world, countries have the unprecedented opportunity to learn from the successes and mistakes of the international community in their pursuit of sustainable development.

The delegations of the Portuguese Republic, France, Italy, and other Member States within the Global North discussed how to limit undue Western influence on education on Member States within the Global South in conversation with delegations representing Member States of Latin American and Caribbean countries. A consensus was reached that the Global North should only provide aid to create the infrastructure for education, rather than taking a directorial role in providing education services themselves. When it came to improving education within the region of Latin America and the Caribbean there was a special emphasis placed on creating equal access to education. There was a consensus among the delegations of the Commission that the global north should aid in this process, but that they must ultimately allow Latin American and Caribbean countries to reach this goal in a manner that best fits their needs.

3.6 Environment and Sustainable Development

Delegations highlighted environmental issues plaguing Latin America and the Caribbean such as environmental refugees, internally displaced persons, preserving biodiversity, sustainable deforestation practices, oil dependency (renewable energy sources), natural disaster resilient infrastructure, eco-tourism, rising sea levels and carbon dioxide emission (mitigation policy).

Colombia acknowledged the need to help environmental refugees and internally displaced people in Latin America. Environmental and/or climate refugees face difficult choices to leave their homes in order to search for a better life not threatened by natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and flooding. It is important to prevent further climate refugees, as people should be able to live in their homes without fearing what the future will bring.

As for preserving biodiversity, Aruba and Costa Rica recognize the importance of this. Biodiversity helps maintain a healthy and stable environment. Additionally, biodiversity is harmed by the farming industry which infuses chemicals into the ground and water, while also clearing land of native plants.

Eco-tourism is important for economies within Latin America and especially the Caribbean, however tourism can be very harmful for the environment. The key with eco-tourism is limiting consumption and protecting the native biodiversity within countries. International cooperation is necessary to ensure the environments wherein tourism is a pertinent sector can recover from natural disasters and remain stable for many generations of people, flora and fauna.

France raised the point of the need for sustainable forestry practices, and the many different forms that this can take. This issue is important due to the fact that deforestation is a leading cause of environmental degradation in countries of the Global South. If changes are not implemented soon, there will likely be an exhaustion of resources in the region, which has the potential to lead to large-scale disaster.

Honduras highlights the importance of implementing adaptation policies, being a country highly affected by natural disasters and emphasizes the importance of resilient infrastructure for all the countries suffering from natural disasters.

Ecuador mentioned the importance of renewable energy for the environment and potential types of renewable energy options available for countries. Ecuador mentioned that renewable energy as an alternative to non-sustainable
sources is better as a source of energy as they are more sustainable and they offer a cleaner alternative that will combat climate change which damages the environment.

3.7 Sustainable Technology

The delegations of Chile, Bolivia, Cuba, Brazil and Portugal collaborated to discuss which sectors were recommended to be invested in. One of the priorities of the committee was the expansion of technology such as a transition toward renewable energy, sustainable technologies and the expansion of internet access. Delegates from the mentioned countries determined that investment should primarily occur through monetary support from the Global North through NGOs.

In addition, other members of the commission determined that the more prudent way to deliver this monetary support would come from committed foreign direct investment focused on providing infrastructure development without the goal of making a profit.

Trinidad and Tobago discussed technological infrastructure and non-monetary aid with the United States and Venezuela. Delegates from these countries proposed solutions to build partnerships with developed, stable countries that result in the sustainable development and long-term stability of technological advancements in Latin-American and Caribbean countries. The United States suggested a structure in which trained individuals from the Global North educate and train residents of the Global South in various fields and trades. The noted fields and trades include but are not limited to: the building and implementation of power lines for stable electricity and internet; the development of medical and surgical equipment to improve health care; virtual communications with neighboring countries and allies. This structure can be reconfigured and applied to various needs Latin-American and Caribbean countries have in regards to technological development.

3.8 Technological Development

Representatives from Brazil, the United States, Puerto Rico, Germany, Bolivia, Uruguay and Japan gathered to address the exchange of information and material when it comes to modern technologies. The member states of this discussion specifically recognized the modern danger of economic imperialism posed by aid and funding in specific examples.

We also wanted to reaffirm the previous investments and actions taken by members of the Latin American and Caribbean communities. One of these prior initiatives, mentioned by the delegate from Uruguay, Plan Ceibal. Implemented in 2007 by President Tabar Vazquez of Uruguay, Plan Ceibal was a program to aid education expansion by providing internet access to students. It also distributed technological devices to students such as laptops and tablets, that they could use for school. Due to these efforts, internet access in Uruguay now stands at 85 percent, however we did deeply recognize the lack of innovative technological access afforded to the Global South.

Another crucial motive mentioned by both the delegates from Japan and the United States entailed measures to not only promote technological sharing between countries nations today, but also promote research and development on an international level to continue this advancement.

Also mentioned is the need for more sustainable energy infrastructure and technology. Many nations both outside and within the Technological Development Group have expressed a desire to incorporate more renewable energy into their funding efforts. We especially place emphasis on an inclusive Green Economy by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20). We also incorporated historic knowledge of access to resources and specifically the advent of green energy in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, seeing as many Western nations had available access to fossil fuels during their rise.

Naturally, in the wake of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, we recognize the strength and necessity of these recommendations at this time. The continued efforts of sharing and cooperation between developing nations, especially in the fields of technology and medicine, will help uplift Latin America and the Caribbean for generations to come.

Following the completion of this outline, United Nations precedents were incorporated to express how this resolution contributes to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation’s 2022-2025 action plan. The document was then merged with draft resolutions HH and FF’s merge in document QQ. After much deliberation, we were able to come to a consensus and incorporate two operative clauses, one about the need for technology exchange and another stressing the consent between nations that must occur during South-South cooperation.
4 Adoption of the Report of the Commission

At its meeting on 22 November 2022, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments was adopted by consensus.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions