



American Model United Nations

**Economic Commission for Latin
America and the Caribbean**

**Report to the Economic Commission for Latin
America and the Caribbean on Committee on
South-South Cooperation**

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1 Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

13 The final chapter details the acceptance of this report for ECOSOC's consideration.

14 2 Matters calling for action

15 2.1 ECLAC I/1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 4. *Reaffirms* the importance of investment in technology and industry sectors for economic development:

39 (a) Recommends investment in sustainable technologies within Latin America and the Caribbean
40 by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

41 (b) Suggests the expansion of technology to Member States within Latin America and the Caribbean
42 such as;

43 (i) Renewable energy technologies such as solar energy;

44 (ii) Internet grids;

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

49 6. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the continuation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation programs in
50 the development of technology as countries believe fit through:

51 (a) Facilitating and financing technology transfer to consenting developing countries of the Global
52 South;

53 (b) Diversifying the pool of resources through both traditional and new stakeholders including
54 sovereign states, multilateral institutions, the private sectors and foundations to further enhance sustainable, global
55 development partnerships and programs;

56 (c) Providing financial assistance for the development of needed frameworks and infrastructure to
57 make the technology widely available;

- 58 7. *Requests* aid from Global North Member States to Global South Member States to provide temporary
59 economic stability throughout economic crisis;
- 60 8. *Endorses* investment to improve the trade capabilities of Latin American and Caribbean countries through
61 the expansion of trading partners and development of trade infrastructure including shipping convoys;
- 62 9. *Advises* that negotiation parameters are established prior to negotiations, so all the Member States
63 involved are able to maintain full sovereignty;
- 64 10. *Suggests* the incorporation of circular economic models to advance sustainable development, stressing
65 a holistic review process which considers, but is not limited to, metrics enshrined in the Sustainable Development
66 Goals;
- 67 11. *Discourages* the use of trade barriers or restrictions as a means for achieving political goals..

68 **3 Consideration of the status**

69 **3.1 Introduction**

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

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

86 **3.2 Autonomy and Transparency**

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

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

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

104 **3.3 International Trade**

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

111 Jamaica brought discussion of fiscal investment in trade capabilities of Caribbean nations through the man-
112 ufacturing of trade ships and aircrafts to bolster the potential of South-South trade. This was addressed because
113 Jamaica noted that it relies on major trade partners for shipping convoys rather than their own and this is an
114 obstacle for their economic development. Panama contributed by discussing how increased available trade convoys
115 would provide more opportunities for independent trade and South-South trade would be a more achievable goal on
116 an international level. Belize agrees with this notion. Jamaica addressed how international funding for improvements

117 of existing Jamaican infrastructure must respect Latin American and Caribbean sovereignty and budgeting decisions
118 will be in accordance with the conditions funding is given under.

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

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

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

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

144 **3.4 Infrastructure**

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

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

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

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

167 **3.5 Education**

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

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

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

190 **3.6 Environment and Sustainable Development**

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

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

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

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

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

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

215 Ecuador mentioned the importance of renewable energy for the environment and potential types of renewable
216 energy options available for countries. Ecuador mentioned that renewable energy as an alternative to non-sustainable

217 sources is better as a source of energy as they are more sustainable and they offer a cleaner alternative that will
218 combat climate change which damages the environment.

219 **3.7 Sustainable Technology**

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

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

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

237 **3.8 Technological Development**

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

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

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

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

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

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

266 **4 Adoption of the Report of the Commission**

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

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions