

**Peacebuilding Commission
Organisational Committee meeting
on
South-South and Triangular Cooperation
in Support of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace**

**Statement by
Ms. Lakshmi Swaminathan ,Second Secretary**

11 September 2019

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for organising this meeting today. We would like to thank the briefers - Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Ms. Barrie Freeman, Deputy Director, Peacebuilding Support Office and Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Response Unit, United Nations Development Programme UNDP for sharing their insights on the subject of discussion today and highlighting the commonalities that exist among the UN entities.

2. India welcomes this discussion on the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The 2030 agenda reaffirmed that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

3. The cardinal principle of South-South cooperation, that brought us together 40 years ago to adopt the Buenos Aires Program of Action (BAPA) and still binds us together is that **sharing valuable capacities, experience and knowledge** amongst developing countries can be a catalyst for development. As opportunities have improved for sharing the fruits of knowledge, technology and growth, we all are now seeking new channels of cooperation and new pathways for development.

4. The changing landscapes of peacebuilding and focus on building sustainable national capacities over long-term have underscored the relevance of exchange of experiences, expertise, policy inputs and assistance. These

exchanges were already happening in some form or the other amongst the countries of the Global South.

5. India, given our large, complex and diverse setting, has vast experience in nation-building. Based on this, the core of our approach towards development cooperation since the early years of our independence has been a willingness to share with others traversing similar paths. India's development cooperation with fellow partners from the South have expanded significantly. Geographic distance is no longer a deterrent to sharing.

6. The BAPA+40 outcome document of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation has come up with an ambitious work plan underscoring the need to give enhanced focus on South-South Cooperation.

7. Triangular cooperation has become another important vehicle to combine the best of North and South. For example, India works closely with Japan, France, EU, US and other like-minded countries to see how best our partners in Asia and Africa can benefit from this tripartite construct. India also works with developing countries to extend such assistance. Contributions from India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) through IBSA Fund is also providing development support to least developed countries across the globe.

8. India believes in a demand-driven approach in its developmental assistance. This would naturally dovetail into the national priorities of the recipient country and hence touch the lives of the people. This would also ensure the creation of local capacity and local opportunities thereby sustaining the efforts for long-term success.

9. We understand that financing is an important aspect for the success of our collective efforts. It is in this context, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund was established in June 2017 as a new mechanism contributing to the achievement of SDGs of fellow developing countries. The UN Office of South-South Cooperation is the fund manager for this innovative startup initiative. The Fund already has projects in 39 countries.

10. India is committed to enhancing contributions to South-South solidarity in accordance with our means and on the basis of the principles and norms of

South-South cooperation. We would like to enumerate those fundamental principles which could be used to develop a framework in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. These principles include (i) respect for national sovereignty; (ii) national ownership and independence; (iii) equality; (iv) non-conditionality; (v) non-interference in domestic affairs; and (vi) mutual benefit.

11. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, today's meeting testifies the convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission and its ability to serve as a platform for countries that are interested in engaging with a broad range of stakeholders on their efforts to build and sustain peace. We would continue to support your efforts in this regard.

Thank you, Chair.
