

**Concept Note for the Colombian Side Event at the 2020 High Level Political Forum
“Global South Dialogues: Science and Innovation for a Post-COVID Sustainable
Development”**

Monday July 13th, 8 to 9 a.m. (UTC -4)

Hosted by the Government of Colombia

Co-Hosted by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Background:

The outcome document (A/RES/73/291) of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Buenos Aires in March 2019 (commonly known as BAPA+40)¹ is a forward-looking blueprint for the international community to consolidate its approach to South-South cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcome recommended to the global South to encourage the development and technology transfer in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals, while paying special attention to the most vulnerable population and groups. Among other recommendations, the outcome document promotes the use of South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of technology to pursue the following actions:

1. collaboration on technological development, including acquisition of research and development capability; (24.H)
2. technology and information networks management, that includes producers and users of technology, as well as those who work in the development of infrastructure and human resources; (24.H)
3. scholarships and other pertinent assistance to facilitate access to institutions of science, technology and innovation for higher education and research; (30.B)
4. cross-border and inter-regional coordination mechanisms to strengthen science, technology and innovation policies, and research in scientific areas; (30.C)
5. develop studies and organize dialogues to explore policy options in order to manage problems and increase benefits derived from the evolution of technology, such as artificial intelligence, big data, robotics and other technological innovations; (30.E)
6. jointly working with the private sector to harmonize business practices with the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to the development and transfer of science, technology and innovation-based solutions across the global South; (31.C)
7. promotion of education, particularly in the fields of science, technology, innovation and vocational and professional training. (31.D)

This global trend towards the digitalization of the creation and consumption of goods and services, in development for decades, has significantly accelerated in the context generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent weeks, we have seen an upsurge in the development of new business models for the creation of audiovisual content, online shopping, distance

¹ Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. Buenos Aires, March 20 to 22, 2019. A/CONF.235/6

learning, 3D printing, robotics and drones, information and communication technologies, telemedicine, telecommuting, among others².

Aware of the opportunities and risks that this phenomenon presents for the most vulnerable populations in many developing countries, due to the gaps in access to technology, the Government of Colombia represented by APC-Colombia and UNOSSC are co-organizing this event to explore how South-South and Triangular Cooperation contribute to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the global South.

The event will serve as an opportunity for the participants to share experiences in how Science, Technology and Innovation can help mitigate the effects of the crisis and provide solutions in the areas of health, economic activities and education. The event will discuss the challenges of promoting Research and Development as well as access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in developing countries, especially for vulnerable people and groups, and best practices to overcome these challenges via South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Furthermore, the event will serve as a platform to identify cooperation opportunities to respond effectively to the various health, social and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks (6 minutes):
 - a. Jorge Chediek, Director, UNOSSC.
 - b. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Colombian Ambassador to the United Nations.
2. Keynote speech (7 minutes):
 - a. Angela Ospina, Director-General, APC-Colombia.
3. Panel with participants from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Questions on successful cases of technology utilization and transfer through South-South and triangular cooperation, followed by a discussion on obstacles and success factors. (40 minutes).
 - a. Moderator: Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnerships, UNOSSC.
 - b. Latin America:
 - i. Mrs. Sandra Quijada Javer, National Director of the National Statistics Institute, Chile.
 - ii. Mr. Ruben Geneyro, President of the National Institute for Industrial Technology, Argentina.
 - c. Africa (TBC)
 - d. Asia (TBC)
 - e. Questions:
 - i. BAPA+40 recommended using South-South and Triangular Cooperation to strengthen public policies for Science, Technology, and Innovation. This includes promoting education and training, as well as exploring policy options to manage emerging fields such as artificial

² World Economic Forum - "10 technology trends to watch in the COVID-19 pandemic"
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/10-technology-trends-coronavirus-covid19-pandemic-robotics-telehealth/>

intelligence, Big Data and robotics. What advances has your country/organization achieved in these areas lately?

- ii. BAPA+40 called to promote access to science and technology institutions via scholarships and joint Research & Development programs. How can South-South and Triangular Cooperation help in expanding the reach of research & development networks?
- iii. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the trend of digitalization of goods and services (e.g. telework, telemedicine, e-learning, e-shopping). How can we prevent certain populations from “falling behind” due to a lack of access to ICTs?

4. Closing remarks (7 minutes):

- a. Mrs. Mabel Gisela Torres, Colombian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.