

Draft opening remarks by
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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This afternoon, the Council will discuss the topic of “Opportunities and challenges to mainstream South-South cooperation by the UN development system in order to maximize its impact on national capacity development”.

Before I welcome our guests and hand over to our moderator, let me first stress the importance of South-South cooperation. There is much demand from programme countries for the United Nations to support South-South cooperation.

This is also made clear in the SG report, which highlights that programme countries are requesting the provision of access to the knowledge and expertise of other developing countries and the identification of cooperation partners. This is principally in the areas of industry, trade and investment, knowledge and technology transfer, economic growth and employment, and environment and national resources.

The UN development system has made good progress on South-South cooperation.

20 of the 22 entities that responded to a survey carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs stated that South-South cooperation had been integrated into their strategic plans, and 18 of 22 entities have reported on South-South cooperation in their annual reports. Such progress is notable but challenges remain.

Several entities reported that they relied on extrabudgetary resources when it came to providing such support. Furthermore, there is insufficient in-house capacity at the country level; and the lack of government focal point on South-South cooperation hinders UN support.

Such challenges need to be tackled systematically and institutionally.

I will now hand over to our distinguished panelists and I ask them and our moderator to look at these issues in-depth and suggest solutions.

Let me welcome:

- the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, Her Excellency H.E. Ms. Koki Muli Grignon,
 - Mr. Tubagus Achmad Choesni, the Director for International Development Cooperation, State Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, Indonesia
- And
- Mr. Jorge Chediek, UN Resident Coordinator, Brazil

I also welcome our Moderator, Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and Secretary-General’s Envoy on South-South Cooperation.