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## Final Report

## Economic and Technical Cooperation

*XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Unity and solidarity against the pandemic*

*3 and 4 December 2020*

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## I. RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

The "[XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Unity and solidarity against the pandemic](#)" was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), with the support of the Pérez Guerrero Trust Fund (FFPG) of the Group of 77 (G-77). This virtual event was broadcast on 03 and 04 December 2020, through the Zoom platform, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Caracas time, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

As a general purpose, the participants in the meeting set out to evaluate international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and to discuss mechanisms to make it more effective and efficient in the short term. In particular, the objectives of the XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA, were as follows: i) Exchange information and experiences in cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the strengths and weaknesses in terms of cooperation efforts that Member States can offer and demand; ii) provide a space for dialogue and exchange of supply and demand for cooperation in the context of the pandemic, in the priority areas defined by the cooperation directors; and iii) assess the major challenges that have arisen in attracting international aid, how regional cooperation and solidarity is working and what elements should be corrected in the future.

Representatives of the following member countries took the floor: Argentina, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Representatives of the following organizations also participated in the event: Korean Council on Latin America and the Caribbean (KCLAC); Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD); International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC); MERCOSUR Social Institute; Andean Health Agency - Hippolyte Unanue Convention (ORAS CONHU) and Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA), Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS), and Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS). Representatives of public, private and academic institutions from several Member States of the organization, as well as specialists and researchers and the general public attended the meeting.

Speakers at the opening session included Ambassador Javier Paulinich, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and Mr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS).

The presentations delivered during the Meeting, as well as the agenda and videos, are available at the Web site of the meeting, at SELA's portal ([www.sela.org](http://www.sela.org)).

To view more videos regarding SELA programs and activities, click [here](#).

The presentations made by the speakers are summarized below:

Eduardo Piña, Specialist of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, made the presentation *Reality of Latin America and the Caribbean in times of pandemic: weaknesses and challenges* (Spanish). He summarized the weaknesses and challenges of the region before the pandemic and raised the need to build a new post-pandemic social contract aimed at strengthening institutions so that they can facilitate the implementation of the necessary reforms. In addition, he suggested the adoption of public policies aimed at containing COVID-19 and promoting economic recovery based on the following principles: resilience-efficiency; sustainability-profitability; the

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widespread use of technologies and the implementation of labour and education reforms. He spoke about some reforms required on the global stage and others specifically aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the State. Finally, he summarized a strategy that includes the following elements to address the challenges: international cooperation; regional integration; institutional strengthening; digital government and public-private collaboration.

Yill Otero, Director for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIRE) of Panama, spoke about *International cooperation in the context of COVID-19's health emergency in Panama* (Spanish). She explained the *Plan Panamá Solidario*, designed to address emergencies and provide social assistance to those affected by COVID-19. She highlighted the work of the Regional Humanitarian Assistance Logistics Centre in times of COVID-19, designated by WHO as a Regional Logistics Hub for the United Nations. She referred to the Centre for Humanitarian Distribution for Latin America and the Caribbean and the National Humanitarian Response Depot for the storage and dispatch of medical supplies and assistance kits. She briefly described the *Food Solidarity Programme to ensure food security* and finally summarized a roadmap to the new normal life.

Roberto Mohar Rivera, Assistant Director-General for Technical and Scientific Cooperation at the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), said that, as a pandemic-derived apprenticeship, the world turned to cooperation and nations feel they must work together. Another lesson, he said, was the reaffirmation of the importance of multilateralism in overcoming the pandemic and other problems of the least-favoured countries. He summarized the Mexican Government's actions on international cooperation with the support of regional and extra-regional organizations, including some initiatives as a provider of cooperation to Caribbean countries. He referred to the need to rethink some traditional international cooperation strategies and stressed its importance as a tool to support country development. He recommended strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms to enhance their results. He referred to the need to drive research, science and innovation with a view to closing scientific gaps between countries in the region to move towards sustainable development. He also raised the need to promote South-South cooperation.

Nancy Silva Sebastián, Director of Policies and Programmes of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (ACPI), after making some general considerations about the impact of the crisis arising from COVID-19, she summarized the activities of the Peruvian Government as a dual recipient and provider of international cooperation. She proposed to take on the crisis from a multisectoral view in search of tangible and sustainable results. She stressed the importance of international cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, as well as that of multilateralism, which, she emphasized, must be strengthened. She referred to the multi-actor origin of international cooperation received by her country. She stressed the importance of fostering meetings such as this one, which facilitates exchanges of data, successful experiences, and lessons learned. She then read what, in her opinion, were seven of the main challenges of International Cooperation: i) mobilize monetary and non-monetary resources in a coordinated, coherent, inclusive and transparent manner to urgently deal with the humanitarian, food and security dimensions of COVID-19, ensuring global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to address the pandemic; ii) strengthen international cooperation within the framework of regional integration spaces, multilateral organizations and the United Nations system, both to address the most urgent consequences of the crisis and promote cooperation, fostering innovative financing mechanisms and promoting favourable environments to facilitate cooperation among the various public and private factors; iii) optimize mechanisms for the exchange of information, knowledge and successful experiences; iv) strengthen the dialogue, effectiveness of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, fostering comprehensive initiatives, innovative solutions and multi-actor associativity mechanisms; v) provide special support to the public and private research and innovation community for the coordinated development of

vaccines, diagnostic methods for this pandemic and preparation for future developments; vi) foster coordinated and coherent work among multilateral institutions; and vii) not to lose sight of the other commitments of the global development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda and that of financing, climate change, and also, in the field of South-South Cooperation, those commitments that were made at the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation. Finally, she concluded her presentation by reiterating that "we need to face this crisis from a multisectoral view; we propose tangible and sustainable results and believe that it is important, from our region, to foster this kind of dialogue, all kinds of exchanges and, above all, share data, experiences, and lessons learned.

Juan Ignacio Roccatagliata, Director for Multilateral Cooperation of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, noted that countries in the region should work together in multilateral fora, particularly in the United Nations and perhaps in the UN General Assembly's High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. He said we should try to get out of a paradigm with an economic vision based on metric indicators and advocate for a multidimensional paradigm. He stated that multilateral fora and cooperation organizations also have financing problems for geopolitical reasons in the contemporary world. He added that Triangular Cooperation faces this problem, making it difficult for countries in the region to implement it. He emphasized that we should recall that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (PABA) provided for the strengthening of the tools for international cooperation and regional integration platforms, as well as the inclusion of the multi-actor sector and civil society. He stressed the need to follow up on the approaches of the PABA+40 Conference, in which essential issues were raised, he said, to address some of the problems facing the region today. He also noted that the pandemic made the importance of Middle-Income and Upper-Middle-Income countries more visible in the scheme and architecture of international cooperation.

Olaya Dotel, Deputy Minister of International Cooperation of Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPYD) of the Dominican Republic, began her presentation by noting an important coincidence with those who preceded her on the floor regarding the relevance of multilateralism and the need to review the mechanisms of non-reimbursable international cooperation. She then summarized her government's actions on health in the context of the pandemic, carried out through a Working Table. She reported that international cooperation was carried out and that the response was given through donations, reorientation of funds for existing and new projects to combat the effects of the virus. She stressed the need for plans and action guides for the management of emergency cooperation that would contribute to the definition of roles, processes and tools necessary for its implementation. She also highlighted the need to create spaces for dialogue where guidelines are articulated for countries to manage international cooperation in times of emergency, ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of aid. Such spaces, she added, should cut across the emergency management stages and consider the pre-emergency to plan the reaction during the crisis for the response and mitigation of the effects of the phenomenon.

Álvaro Velarca, Coordinator of Interinstitutional and International Monitoring of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), summarized the management of the pandemic in Mexico, making emphasis on its medical-health and economic-social aspects and on the need to ensure hospital care for those affected. He then commented on the cooperation programmes from which his country has benefited under the pandemic, especially from France, the United Kingdom, the ILO and FAO. He also referred to three economic support measures implemented by the government, namely: *Créditos a la palabra* (Credits to the word), *Mi pensión digital* (My digital pension) and *Infórmate de tu familiar* (Find out about your family member). Finally, he confirmed the impression shared by all panellists regarding the need to strengthen cooperation among countries in the region.

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Santiago Urbizo, Assistant Manager of Planning and Development of the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS), explained *The health crisis from a social security perspective* (Spanish). He spoke about the establishment of a COVID-19 Crisis Committee, which developed the *Preparedness and Response Plan* to manage everything related to the pandemic. He presented some of the actions taken in the field of international cooperation with the participation of all Central American agencies linked to the area of health and social security, in addition to PAHO/WHO; the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA). He stressed that, among other actions, the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS) was coordinating, at the regional level, the definition of a common strategy for the joint procurement of COVID-19 tests.

Daniel Quesada Rodríguez, Coordinator of the Emergency and Disaster Assistance Centre at the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), presented the *Report on measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic emergency in Costa Rica* (Spanish). He explained that this approach was part of the institutional coordination involving government entities at all levels of public administration linked to the area of health. He summarized the five objectives of the *Contingency Plan* created to address the crisis. He explained the presence of COVID-19 in the country, highlighting trends in core and peripheral locations. Finally, he referred to lessons learned as a result of the efforts made to combat the epidemic.

Orla Kantum Coleman, Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize, summarized her country's experience as a recipient of international cooperation and recognized the high value of aid received by the country, without which, she said, it would have been more difficult to meet the challenges generated by the pandemic. She also highlighted the problem of the availability of scarce resources by small island states such as Belize, and other CARICOM members, to handle situations such as the pandemic. She noted that there was an urgent need for development partner countries to be able to respond to the needs of particularly small countries like her country. She added that, in traditional international cooperation, it was not common for development partners to provide funds for wages and remuneration, but workers have been exposed to the pandemic and seen their incomes severely or simply lost.

María Cristina Fuentes Arévalo, Director of Non-Governmental Cooperation and Evaluation and Leader of Technical Bureau No. 8 of the Committee on Emergency Operations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, made the presentation *International cooperation and COVID-19 in Ecuador* (Spanish), in which she presented a chronology of the emergency caused by COVID-19 in her country. In this connection, she referred to the creation of the Committee on Emergency Operations (COE), the highest national authority to manage everything related to the pandemic; the formation of the Technical Working Tables (MTM); and the creation of dialogue spaces with the government. She stressed the importance of international cooperation as an ally in the fight against the pandemic. Finally, she summed up the challenges to be faced in the region, including the need to deepen South-South cooperation (CSS) and centralized and decentralized triangular cooperation, as well as the desirability of creating a SED-funded CSS Fund, administered by UNDP, with funds from Italy.

Sidhartha Marin, Minister, Adviser to the President of the Republic for International Policy and Affairs of Nicaragua, thanked SELA for the initiative of holding the meeting and confirmed his country's commitment to continue participating in similar events, in which, he noted, much is learned from the exchange of experiences and knowledge, very useful not only in dealing with the current pandemic, but also phenomena such as climate change.



Leonel Barreto, Project Officer, in charge of the Cooperation and Technical Assistance Programme at the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), explained the purpose and nature of the Programme. He noted that, in 2020, due to the severe difficulties arising from the pandemic, there was very little participation of the countries of the region in the Programme and therefore, in his opinion, it would have to be reoriented to promote its implementation in 2021.

Ambassador Soong-chull Shin, President of the Korean Council on Latin America and the Caribbean (KCLAC), presented the *International Cooperation of the Republic of Korea in the context of COVID-19* (Spanish). In his presentation, he highlighted cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and, in this regard, expressed his satisfaction at the close collaboration that was taking place between KCLAC and SELA. He highlighted how, according to WHO, Korea has demonstrated that solidarity and enforcement of public health measures can control COVID-19. He also referred to all knowledge-sharing activities, carried out with multilateral organizations such as ECLAC and SELA. With the latter, he commented that KCLAC is developing a study to promote cooperation between Korean SMEs and LAC SMEs.

Ghotai Ghazialam, Operations Manager for COVID 19 of the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), presented *Covid-19 national response in the Americas region* (Spanish). He began by saying that IFRC is one of the strongest international co-operators and is based on a community of volunteers that currently amounts to 620,000 people. He then summarized the regional situation, noting that, according to reports uploaded to the GoPlatform, as part of the response to COVID-19, 34 national authorities are working in the following areas: hygiene and health care; economic actions and institutional strengthening of services. Finally, he presented a list of specific activities developed in each area.

Nahuel Oddone, Head of Promotion and Exchange of Regional Social Policies Department of the MERCOSUR Social Institute, noted that the purpose of the Institute was to contribute to the social dimension of MERCOSUR and that the Department's action was aimed at strengthening citizen integration and regional social protection and that, to that end, they work in cooperation with ministries and state agencies linked to the social agenda. He also explained that lately they have worked intensively in the border area where asymmetry and gaps take on a special dimension, and that is why interventions in those areas have been a priority. He highlighted and appreciated SELA's cooperation relations with the Institute. He also highlighted the links to the 2030 Agenda and the hemispheric agendas in the social area.

Leonardo Hernández, Chief of Emergency Operations Unit of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), briefly outlined PAHO's work in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he said, is aimed at supporting health authorities in the region in making better decisions on this issue. He added that PAHO's specific objectives at the current regional juncture is to control the pandemic by slowing down the rate of contagion and save lives, protecting the most vulnerable populations, with attention to health workers as the front line against COVID-19.

Melissa Hernández de Ayala, Director of Development and Cooperation Projects at the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA, presented *The Coordinated Action of Health Institutions in the Latin American and Caribbean Region* (Spanish) and summarized the response and regional action of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and COMISCA against COVID-19, as well as post-pandemic challenges for national health systems. Finally, he commented on lessons learned from a personal-family-community, institutional (health authority) and global perspective, in Central America and the Dominican Republic, in the fight against the pandemic.

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María del Carmen Calle, Executive Secretary of the Andean Health Agency - Hippolyte Unanue Convention (ORAS CONHU), presented the *Hippolyte Unanue Convention: Response to COVID-19* (Spanish). She explained that the actions were led by the Andean Committee for COVID-19, made up of representatives of the member countries of ORAS CONHU (Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). She added that the Committee promoted meetings with the Technical Committees of Andean countries and, in some cases, Central America. She added that it also provides quality information on pandemic management and holds meetings with high-level authorities of ministries of health on issues related to COVID-19, among others. She explained the work done by the Andean Committees, responsible for the systematization and monitoring of regional policies and plans and whose activities also included: update and dissemination of COVID-19 surveillance information; multi-country studies and projects; communication strategies across multiple platforms; coordination with health authorities and promotion of partnerships with other national, regional and international organizations.

Pedro Albarrán, Director of Mechanisms and Cooperation, People's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, expressed that his country valued SELA as a regional body committed to the development of the region through integration and cooperation. He cited the Panama Convention in referring to the principles on which relations between Latin American and Caribbean countries should be based. In this regard, he expressed Venezuela's commitment to promoting multilateralism. He highlighted the *House by House* method, through which the Venezuelan Government serves the population affected by the pandemic. He finally stressed that, in the fight against the pandemic in Venezuela, much progress has been made through international cooperation, especially that received from Cuba, China and Russia. He announced that the Sputnik vaccine will be applied in March 2021 and that it will be free.

Efraín Guadarrama, Director-General of American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms, Foreign Ministry of Mexico, National Coordinator of Mexico to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), began his speech by citing the Mexican definition of international development cooperation, conceived as the joint effort of governments, with the support of multilateral organizations, civil society, NGOs, academia and the private sector, to contribute to the sustainable development of countries and to improve the standard of living of the population. He then emphasized that international cooperation is one of seven foreign policy principles enshrined in the Mexican Constitution (Art. 89) and that, since 1980, agreements have been signed with countries and multilateral organizations to co-finance international cooperation and South-South cooperation programmes to support projects aimed at exchanging skills and best practices in the fields of science and technology, education, development, culture and academia. He then expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to participate in the presentation of the *Disaster Protocol for Social Security Institutions in the Americas*, proposed by CISS and jointly presented with CELAC and SELA. Finally, he stated that the Protocol was a very valuable effort in the field of South-South cooperation in times of the pandemic, aimed at strengthening the social and economic resilience of individuals and populations to the risk of disasters.

Verhonica Zamudio Santos, Social Security Researcher at the Executive Directorate for Projects and Research (DEPI) of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), after providing some figures that reveal the impact of disasters on the region, presented the *Disaster Protocol for Social Security Institutions in the Americas* (Spanish), which she defined as the "Framework that outlines the basis for the integration and participation of social security systems in national disaster risk reduction strategies". She then highlighted the principles of the Protocol, noting that it takes the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030, its approach, as well as its main areas. She

then provided details on the general proposal of what should be the organizational structure of the public body responsible for the implementation of the Protocol and set out the objectives concerning risk management.

Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), noted that the global health emergency caused by COVID-19 demands global efforts and that the region needs to rethink routes of unity and solidarity in the face of the pandemic. He also confirmed the importance of international cooperation in supporting national governments in their efforts to manage the crisis caused by the pandemic and added that local governments need central governments and vice versa to develop policies and programmes aimed at tackling the pandemic. In addition, he noted that, in his view, the germ of a new multilateralism based on the well-being of people rather than on capital and economic resources could already be seen, as evidenced by the development of vaccines through cross-country cooperation practices and that he hoped that their sale would respond more to humanitarian impulses and cooperation than to market motivations.

## II. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the presentations made by the panellists and the answers and comments raised by the questions and concerns expressed by the participants, the following are some relevant statements of a concluding and/or propositional nature considered during the working session:

- 1) The pandemic has revealed the inequalities and inequities in our region.
- 2) Epidemiological surveillance and early detection are a key pillar for designing and implementing a rapid and efficient response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) Permanent social communication is a key factor in building an adequate response to pandemic situations and promoting conscious, enthusiastic, intelligent and effective community participation.
- 4) The implementation of social distancing measures has proven to be effective and should continue to be among the first steps to be taken in pandemics such as COVID-19.
- 5) Countries should have effective health information systems to enable them to make timely and well-informed and documented decisions. It is also imperative that such systems are permanently updated and strengthened.
- 6) In order to implement a timely and rapid response to the threat posed by COVID-19, the institutions of each country must be able to have adequate and sufficient resources to pay attention to a population that is being affected by a disease whose physiopathology remains unknown, which is atypical in its behaviour and unpredictable in its magnitude.
- 7) Effective action against COVID-19 raises the need to make greater and better use of technologies with a view to achieving a much better connection between patients and users with health services. Reducing or eliminating the digital divide is an essential step towards greater and more efficient use of technologies.
- 8) In Latin America and the Caribbean, it is necessary to promote the installation of research centres that, in a timely manner, generate the scientific knowledge required to successfully confront both COVID-19 and other endemic diseases, and to offer, at the highest possible

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level, special support to the research and innovation community, both public and private, for the coordinated development of vaccines and diagnostic methods.

- 9) The joint procurement of medicines among several countries should be adopted as a strategy that can produce scale benefits, especially for least developed countries, such as the request that Central American countries made to the Executive Secretariat of COMISCA for the joint purchase of tests for COVID-19.
- 10) It is necessary to promote in Latin America and the Caribbean strategies that are based on the necessary intersectorality for the integral approach to the epidemic, as well as for the generation of public policies that guarantee the viability of these strategies so that they become programmes and projects whose implementation results in real solutions for the health of the whole population.
- 11) Recovery requires cooperation because the pandemic will only be overcome when it is defeated around the world. This requires extending international cooperation to cover governments, businesses, academia and civil society.
- 12) Participants agreed that it is imperative for Latin America and the Caribbean to promote multilateralism and cooperation in resolving situations such as those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and, in parallel, to strengthen the role of multilateral organizations in seeking faster responses that are better adjusted to the needs.
- 13) Climate risks should be incorporated into public and private planning processes.
- 14) It is necessary to promote cooperation actions aimed at the transfer of knowledge, information, general guidelines and protocols and exchange of best practices, as well as technical assistance for strengthening the actuarial and statistical area.
- 15) In view that isolated efforts by the countries are not enough to eradicate COVID-19, it is imperative to deepen integration initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean; and therefore it would be very convenient to promote dialogues to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices with regard to the management of similar situations and their effects.
- 16) The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the region should direct their efforts to facilitate international cooperation, reaching their countries through bilateral and multilateral co-operators, private enterprises and non-governmental bodies.
- 17) It is of the utmost importance to promote equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine with the support of international cooperation, without which it would not be possible to deal with the pandemic successfully.
- 18) It is necessary to promote research, science and innovation with a view to bridging scientific gaps between countries in the region and moving towards sustainable regional development that allows countries to take on, more effectively and quickly, the challenges posed by crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19) Participants agreed that these reflection sessions will continue to foster the timely coordination needed in the areas of technical assistance to strengthen integration, cooperation and convergence, and that they will also strengthen solidarity among the

countries of the region. Therefore, they agreed on the need to promote more meetings such as this one.

### **Challenges for health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency**

In view of their cross-cutting nature across the region and considering the need and desirability of highlighting them in order to reassure the undisputed relevance of international cooperation at the regional level as a key element to implement an effective response to the pandemic, some of the challenges that panellists in their presentations and, in general, participants in the meeting, through their questions and concerns, identified the following actions in the current context of crisis that the region is living through due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1) Expand citizens' participation in the fight against COVID-19.
- 2) Expand skills of human resources by empowering them to perform better in their tasks.
- 3) Governments should provide special support to the research and innovation community, both public and private, for the coordinated development of vaccines and diagnostic methods for the current pandemic and those that might occur in the future.
- 4) Develop health information systems, duly supported by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- 5) Establish free health services.
- 6) Strengthen international cooperation within the framework of regional integration spaces, multilateral organizations and the United Nations system in order to address the most urgent consequences of the crisis and boost recovery by fostering innovative financing mechanisms and promoting favourable environments to facilitate cooperation between various public and private actors.
- 7) Recognize the great value of the private sector for the effective management of the pandemic and encourage the strengthening of public-private partnerships (PPPs).
- 8) Increase public funding for pandemic management.
- 9) Improve medical equipment and technology in order to ensure a higher quality of health care.
- 10) Mobilize monetary and non-monetary resources in a coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner to urgently address the humanitarian, food and security dimensions of COVID-19, ensuring access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to confront the pandemic.
- 11) Work on other commitments on the global development agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda, the financing agenda, the climate change agenda, and honour those commitments that were made at the Second United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.
- 12) Optimize mechanisms to exchange information, knowledge, best practices and successful experiences, and promote the intensive use of technological devices to facilitate such exchanges.

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- 13) Promote the social, administrative, political and material recognition for health workers.
- 14) Promote a well-coordinated and coherent work among multilateral cooperation institutions and proper coordination between them and national governments in order to address situations such as COVID-19.
- 15) Strengthen dialogue, effectiveness of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation by fostering comprehensive initiatives, innovative solutions and multi-actor associativity mechanisms.
- 16) Reorganize national health systems and incorporate the necessary human talent, as well as the technologies to enhance their efficiency.
- 17) Transform the curative and hospital-centred care model into a preventive model.
- 18) Build more coherent and integrated South-South Cooperation (CSS) and regional strategies and programmes, while strengthening institutional capacities in CSS.
- 19) Strengthen management in the different phases and stages of each one of the cooperation projects.
- 20) Improve the effectiveness and ensure the sustainability of international cooperation initiatives in the region.
- 21) Encourage the inclusion of various actors in international cooperation actions, with attention to the private sector, academia and NGOs.
- 22) Optimize surveillance of emerging diseases.
- 23) Optimize the resources required to ensure the fair use of international cooperation actions so that they result into effective benefits for the population.
- 24) Make plans and prepare for future epidemics.
- 25) Make progress in evaluating the impact of international cooperation actions.