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Remarks by Ambassador Clarems Endara Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) at the opening ceremony

Social Development

Meeting of Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovative mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

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Good morning,

Your Excellency Mr. Pavel Isa, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic;

Representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Dominican Republic

Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

Honorable Ms. Olaya Dotel, Vice-Minister of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic.

Dear participants, representatives of governments, directors of cooperation agencies, cooperation directors and officers, representatives of subregional integration systems, representatives of multilateral organisations and agencies of the United Nations System.

On behalf of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, it is a pleasure for me to extend a warm welcome to you this morning at the opening ceremony of the "XXXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Innovative Mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Latin America and the Caribbean".

I am especially grateful to the team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic for their excellent coordination and support for the realisation of this event, and of course to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for its support.

At present, it has been more than demonstrated that in order to address, guide and even resolve the various situations that afflict our region, cooperation and integration are elements of the toolbox needed to deal with the various situations in each of our countries.

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For this reason, during the last meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA in November 2022, the Member States approved Decision 601, which aims to create technical working groups with the objective of consolidating common regional strategies and positions. One of these technical working groups is focused precisely on cooperation, whose goal is to consolidate this space as a platform to encourage the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices in the relevant thematic areas of the cooperation and development aid agenda, thus contributing to the efforts of the United Nations System aimed at strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The road travelled in Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of cooperation is rich with very important and valuable experiences, starting with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (PABA), 1978. In 2019, the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (PABA +40) was held in Argentina, with the central theme of discussion being: how South-South Cooperation represents an opportunity to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

From the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as well as specialised agencies of the United Nations and subregional integration organisations, have included South-South and Triangular cooperation in their agendas and work actions as an articulating mechanism to advance towards integration processes.

That is why today they are invited to participate in this meeting space that allows for strengthening and renewing integration efforts through cooperation.

The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) has played an important role in promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). Among other things, it has contributed a significant follow-up report on the relationship among activities within the framework of this international cooperation body, not only in Ibero-America, but also at the global level.

In this regard and as a result of this effort, SELA wants to generate the conditions to establish a platform that allows us to learn about the different cooperation offers, to have a showcase of opportunities and to help in the different processes as a facilitator for the benefit of the countries in

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the region. And it is precisely you, the representatives of the countries present in this activity, who are the main actors to make this initiative a reality.

To conclude, allow me once again to thank you all for your presence, the Government of the Dominican Republic, and specifically the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic and the excellent professional, technical and administrative team that has supported us and made the organisation of this meeting possible.

I deeply wish the greatest success in this important meeting that is about to begin and which we hope will contribute to strengthen the cooperative relations among fellow Latin American and Caribbean institutions.

Thank you very much.