

Draft Remarks for
Ms. Deirdre Boyd, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand
The Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation
12 September 2018, 0900-11.30 hrs,
Conference Room 4, UN Conference Centre

His Excellency Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand;

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,

Member of the Diplomatic Corps

The UN Family,

Distinguished Participants,

At this regional commemoration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, it is my pleasure to represent the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in my capacity as the UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand.

This year is a special occasion to celebrate the achievements of South-South Cooperation. Exactly 40 years ago today, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was adopted.

This Plan reflected the aspirations of developing countries to strengthen their economic, social and political interdependence, accelerate development, and correct distortions in international systems caused by the asymmetrical power relations of the colonial era of 40 years ago.

It was a reflection of their desire to promote cooperation among themselves as a complement to North-South cooperation in fostering international cooperation for development.

Since then, there has been an expansion of the substantive focus on South-South cooperation. Its extended scope now encompasses peace building, development, and socio-cultural relations. And a significant change in recent years is the recognition of the essential and increasing role of non-state actors.

You will all know that Asia and the Pacific region has been playing a strong role in shaping the future of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

This is a dynamic region. It is comprised of developed, middle-income, least developed and small islands developing countries. What is striking is that the diversity in levels of development has become a catalyst for mutually beneficial collaboration to grow. Over the past decades, we have seen many positive signs of the expansion of South-South Cooperation.

Throughout this evolution, the UN System has strived to improve its support to South-South Cooperation initiatives at national, regional and global levels. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation is a system-wide coordinator that has been advocating for and mainstreaming South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The first High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held for the first time in Nairobi in 2009. **In March 2019, this conference will be held for the second time in Buenos Aires.**

Recently, in June 2018, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, ESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand organised the **Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation**. Inputs from 32 countries and various stakeholders were compiled to feed into this upcoming High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Today's Regional Commemoration is a continuation of our partnership with you all. And the doors are still open to you all for more contribution to shaping the future agenda of South-South Cooperation. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation stands ready to work together with you on the way forward for your active engagement.

Finally, let me say that countries and partners acting in solidarity drives the idea of "leaving no one behind", an important attribute of South-South Cooperation. This is also evident in Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

The Partnership and the assistance Thailand has provided to others and the collaboration with the UN System to advocate for South-South Cooperation demonstrate the core principles of South-South Cooperation.

As a Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Thailand, I can attest to efforts in the UN Country Team to support the Royal Thai Government's vision on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Let me conclude by thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ESCAP for their partnership for this regional commemoration. Also, our appreciation goes to Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and Distinguished Representatives from Embassies and institutions. We look forward to learning more about your South-South Cooperation milestones today.

Thank you.