



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

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8 December 2016

Excellency,

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude for your leadership and support of the Global South-South Development Expo 2016. The institutional contribution of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh played an important role in the GSSD Expo's success.

Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has provided a platform for strategically engaging all development actors, including the private sector and civil society, in a global partnership to showcase and scale up innovative solutions to the development challenges faced by the South. The GSSD Expo 2016, hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, has been ground-breaking in terms of participation, mutual learning and knowledge-sharing among practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation. We at UNOSSC have received extremely positive feedback from United Nations Member States, our United Nations colleagues, panellists and audience members alike in recognizing the great success of the event.

I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations, for his leadership and support of this global event. I would also like to mention the individual contributions of the colleagues from your Office: Anir Chowdhury, Ishtiaque Hussain and Asad uz. Zaman.

We hope that, with your continued support and involvement, the GSSD Expo will continue to grow as a primary source for innovative Southern solutions to development challenges and advance the cause of South-South and triangular cooperation for development.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Chediek', written over a vertical line.

Jorge Chediek
Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation
and Director

Encl: (1) Annex. Statistics on the GSSD Expo 2016

H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Annex. Statistics on the GSSD Expo 2016

The GSSD Expo 2016, hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates in close coordination with UNOSSC and in conjunction with more than 25 United Nations agencies and 124 other institutional partners, has been unprecedented in participation, mutual learning and knowledge-sharing among practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Close to 700 delegates from more than 90 countries took part in this year's Expo, attending the 30+ sessions, including 6 high-level plenary sessions, 1 regional workshop, 1 ministerial meeting, 16 solution forums, a high-level Directors-General forum, 4 side events, and multiple networking and partnership sessions. Tens of thousands of other people participated through social media.

Over 170 concrete Southern-grown solutions and initiatives to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were presented and showcased. In particular, more than 20 thematic topics related to South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development were discussed: the future of work; poverty eradication; food security and agricultural innovation; trade and investment; climate change and environmental protection; youth and women's empowerment; public service delivery; economic transformation; research on South-South cooperation for SDGs; skills development; peacebuilding and peace alternatives; promoting youth entrepreneurship; public-private partnerships; SS-Mart for SDGs; green technology transfer; green economies; tobacco control; and global health. More than 90 Southern-grown solutions, technologies and initiatives were showcased on the Exhibition floor itself by 70 exhibitors from national governments, international organizations, regional groups, academia and the private sector using multimedia materials relevant to South-South cooperation, including posters, audiovisual presentations, printed materials and product prototypes.

In addition, the Expo featured a high-level forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation during which over 150 representatives from more than 35 developing and developed countries as well as United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, think tanks and academic institutions exchanged best practices with regard to global development issues and discussed new proposals for further scaling up and mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation. Moreover, more than 100 national government ministers, senior officials and development practitioners from the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States regions participated at the Regional Networking Forum and the Ministerial Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security. Practical ways of promoting successful home-grown solutions and national expertise of the participating countries were presented and discussed, and replicable and scalable solutions were transferred.

Close to 40 bilateral partnership meetings were reported during the GSSD Expo 2016; many more informal ones took place on site. Several riders to memorandums of understanding and letters of intent were signed. Outcomes of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation session and the peacebuilding session were adopted.