

Statement from Jamaica (Ambassador Sheila Sealy Monteith)
Madam Chairperson,
Excellences,

Let me at the outset join others in congratulating you and the other Members of the Bureau on your election to oversee the work of this meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation during this 36th session of ECLAC. My delegation has every confidence that under your leadership the Committee will not only discharge its responsibilities in a transparent and efficient manner but that we will also advance a number of the issues that are so critical to the wellbeing of our citizens, as we embark on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. You may rest assured of the support of my delegation and our commitment to making this Committee a driver for development as it was conceived to be in the region.

Madam Chairperson,

Jamaica wishes to underscore the necessity for the UN Development System to fully support and facilitate South-South cooperation, which is an important tool for developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Reflecting on the discussions that took place at the UN in New York last week at the 19th High-level Committee on South South Cooperation, we welcome the concrete measures that the UN Development system has taken to improve its support to south-south cooperation. We further commend the concrete steps that have been taken by the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies and in particular by the regional commissions to enhance the mainstreaming of south-

south cooperation in their local, national and regional programme activities. These have been highlighted in the areas of Policy development and dialogue, Research and analysis, Knowledge sharing, Capacity development, Partnerships and innovative financing and Monitoring and evaluation. These are also well aligned to the proposed action lines of our regional Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018, namely Sharing experiences of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation and Sharing experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics, which will be elaborated on following this session.

Jamaica believes these are all steps in the right direction and looks forward to seeing these efforts intensified and particularly as we prepare to negotiate the next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) at the UN in the coming months. Ambassador Alejandro Palma Cerna touched on this this morning during his presentation in respect to the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN Development System.

Madam Chairperson,

It is of course essential that a one-size fits all approach is avoided, as the realities for us as developing countries, particularly, middle income countries are varied and nuanced in their peculiarities. This has been well articulated throughout our

discussions at this session of ECLAC. Furthermore, due regard must be given to the Nairobi outcome document of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, which outlines that the South-South agenda must be set by the countries of the South and should be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

At the same time, it must be understood that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South Cooperation, rather it is to complement those efforts. In this respect, the need for developed partners to honour their overseas development assistance (ODA) commitments remains essential. This is even more critical in the context of the new Agenda.

Madam Chairperson,

As highlighted in Goal 17.6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is necessary to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through the global technology facilitation mechanism; and Goal 17.9 to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. A coherent and complementary approach at

the regional level is what will ensure our success in achieving the SDGs and that we are not bound to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Madam Chairperson,

Jamaica is fully committed to meeting the SDGs and stands ready to work with our development partners and the UN development system at all levels towards this endeavour. We therefore echo the call for a focused and strategic approach to south-south and triangular cooperation as one of the mechanisms to be pursued within this region, in advancing the interest of developing countries as we strive to lift ourselves out of poverty and build better societies for our citizens.

Thank you.