Chairman’s Remarks at the Second Plenary Session 2 on 10 March 2016

After the very stimulating beginning to this Conference earlier today, we are now going to focus on the area of South South Cooperation or SSC, which has become more and more visible over the past decade. We will be looking at the Global Aid Architecture in the context of the global development policy agreed to under Agenda 2030, and consider prospects for SSC as well as Triangular Cooperation.

The five areas our distinguished speakers will consider in this context are:

- How to capture the plurality of SSC through its rainbow approach unifying diverse models?

- The role and importance of non-prescriptive and unconditional developmental cooperation programmes among developing countries.

- Measures for advancement of SSC.

- Impact assessment of SSC programmes with the concurrence of the partner institutions or countries, without the intervention of supranational institutions or experts through a fixed criteria.

- How to optimize the participation of partners in SSC – State, civil society, academia, communities and other actors?

Our distinguished panel comprises of Mr Eric Solheim of the OECD, Dr Nagesh Kumar of UN-ESCAP, Dr Jomo Sundaram of Malaysia, and Dr Manuel Montes of the South Centre, Geneva.

Before giving the floor to each of our speakers listed today, I would like to make some general remarks.

The objective of eradicating poverty, without qualifying poverty in terms of extreme poverty etc, has been unanimously accepted by all countries as the primary objective of Agenda 2030, and thus of the multilateral development
agenda. Each of the 17 SDGs is seen as an instrument towards achieving this over-arching objective.

The second point is that unlike the previous experience of many developing countries with the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs, which were discussed, conceptualized and drafted without the active participation of stakeholders in developing countries, the SDGs are the result of a bottom-up, transparent multi-stakeholder process. In this sense, the SDGs represent a collective commitment and a collective responsibility, to be implemented by 2030. It is for us to identify how we are to achieve this commitment and how we can fulfil our responsibility in our national spheres. India has, for example, articulated several high profile developmental initiatives at the national level with specific nationally set time frames for implementation, which will significantly accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Thirdly, South South Cooperation, which is driven by the demands and aspirations of developing countries themselves, needs to be facilitated by the unfettered flow of finance and technology. This was one of the main debates in the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development held in July 2015, and the unanimous decision of the Conference to establish a Technology Facilitation Mechanism must be implemented speedily. This Conference can and must play a catalytic role in how this can be done, so that the traditional top-down approach to transfer of technology can be replaced by a demand driven, bottom-up approach based on societal and market forces in developing countries.

I would now invite the distinguished panel to present their comments. Due to prior commitments, Mr Solheim will join us for his presentation when the Plenary is resumed at 4.30 p.m. today.
This has been indeed a most interesting session. Since many points raised by our speakers referred to the views of Mr Solheim expressed outside this Conference, and it would be only fair to give Mr Solheim an opportunity to express his views and respond to the points made at this session, I would propose that questions related to the topic of this plenary should be raised after Mr Solheim has presented his views at 4.30 p.m. today. I would like to thank all our participants for their detailed views and our audience for their participation today.