

# **SEOUL FORUM ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Zero Draft)**

14 – 17 February 2000  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

## **Seoul Accord**

[ This is a very preliminary draft of this document to begin a process of thinking and to suggest a format. As we get inputs and feed back this can be expanded into three pages maximum]

We, the participants of the Seoul Forum on South-South Co-operation in Science and Technology, convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 14 to 17 February 1999, in thanking the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for sponsoring and organizing this historical forum, and by adopting this Seoul Accord,

### ***WE AFFIRM THAT***

- the international economic system is increasingly being shaped by globalization and liberalization, which present both threats and opportunities for the South;
- the pace of scientific and technological change over the past few decades is such that the knowledge base required to retain a competitive position in the world economy has greatly expanded;
- science and its applications can be a key factor in solving problems common to the South, including poverty eradication, health, sustainable development and environmental protection;
- scientific knowledge is an increasingly important tool for decision makers, especially in devising policies for national development; and
- the new information technologies and biotechnology are two critical areas that offer opportunities and challenges for the development of the South.

### ***WE RECOGNIZE THAT COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH***

- embrace a balanced vision of globalization as development of the people, by the people and for the people of all nations;
- are committed to South-South cooperation as a strategy and means of complementing their efforts to effectively ride the wave of globalization and technological transformation;
- are faced with similar development challenges and have developed or acquired varying development capacities and experience in nation-building, science and technology and sustainable development;
- have historical commonalities, cultural linkages, geographical assets and demographic advantages;

- have national, regional, sub-regional, inter-regional and inter-government institutions in support of South-South economic and technical cooperation.

***WE RECOMMEND THAT***

*Priorities in science and technology development and cooperation be accorded to:*

- including scientific and technological research as an integral part of development policies, aimed at addressing urgent needs in social equity, education, industrial development, sustainable resource management, peace and international co-operation;
- building the infrastructure and capacity needed to acquire and advance technology and innovation;
- focusing on existing and new modes of production to promote sustainable development, better management practices and more efficient use of natural resources;
- assigning high priority to the adoption and use of new technologies such as biotechnology and information and communication technologies in national and international scientific and industrial policies and development;
- strengthening national and international institutions that promote scientific research and training systems, entrepreneurial development and the dissemination of scientific and technological information;
- strengthening the linkages between R&D centres and productive units in order to enhance the commercial use of scientific results and technological innovation;
- strengthening legal and financial institutions that foster the participation of the private sector in advancing science and technology;
- improving structures and mechanisms that foster South-South cooperation in science and technology, including increased funding for such cooperation.

***WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING PLAN OF ACTION:***

- to form an international “think-tank” (renowned scientific experts) in such critical areas as information and communication technology, biotechnology and biodiversity, new and renewable energies, intellectual property rights, S&T policy and strategy development, industrial and material development, and food production and security, to provide objective advise to Southern policy-makers.
- to establish a South-South network, linking R&D institutions and centres of excellence to enable the exchange of research and scientific information on a more systematic and continuing basis;
- to identify and disseminate among the South successful practices and lessons in national S&T development, including identification of complementary assets as the basis for joint research and industrial cooperation;
- to devise and support a mechanism that would enable countries having the capacity to do so to pool their institutional, technical and financial resources to finance or catalyze South-South cooperation initiatives in science and technology, in light of this Seoul Accord.

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