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Subject: EU contribution to the High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation and  
Capacity Development (Bogotá, 23-25 March 2010)  
- Council Conclusions

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At the meeting on 22 March 2010, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

**Council Conclusions on**

**EU contribution to the to the High-Level Event on South-South Cooperation  
and Capacity Development**

**(Bogotá, 23-25 March 2010)**

1. Cooperation between developing countries and/or emerging economies and their activities in capacity development, notably by middle-income countries, are growing. The EU welcomes these developments, especially for their potential contribution towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>1</sup>
2. The EU shares the need to move beyond the traditional North-South perspective, which no longer captures accurately the current and prospective aid architecture. Further work is needed to define rising forms and patterns of cooperation, acknowledging the role of emerging economies also as donors in the context of development cooperation.
3. In view of the forthcoming High-Level Event (HLE) organised by Colombia, the EU has started at the initiative of the Spanish Presidency an exchange of views on cooperation between developing countries and/or emerging countries, including on the role of the EU in the context of that cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> Cooperation between developing countries themselves and/or emerging economies is commonly referred to as "South-South cooperation"; "South-South cooperation" supported by one or more developed countries is commonly referred to as "triangular cooperation".

4. The EU, in line with its commitment to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, recognises the need to have a clearer conceptual framework for these forms of cooperation and for a better understanding of them. The EU will continue to encourage and support all development actors to use the aid effectiveness principles as a point of departure in their development cooperation.
5. In this context, the EU particularly welcomes the approach taken by a group of developing countries including middle-income countries led by Colombia, to focus the HLE on experiences, cases and lessons learned in order to generate and share evidence on best practices and gaps in South-South cooperation. The HLE will also provide an important opportunity to reflect upon the benefits that experiences of South-South cooperation could bring to aid effectiveness principles and vice versa. Improved methods of collecting reliable, comprehensive and comparable data are needed.
6. The EU intends to conduct, under the Spanish Presidency, a mapping exercise and a survey on the experiences of EU donors in triangular initiatives in this context. EU Member States have been invited to participate actively in this exercise. A dedicated workshop has been organized in Madrid earlier this month. The experiences of those Member States that have recently undergone structural reforms and processes of democratic transition will bring added value.
7. The EU finally stresses the importance to continue reflecting on cooperation between developing countries and/or emerging economies and on possible initiatives in support of this cooperation. Promoting cooperation with emerging donors will be a priority during the current Trio Presidency. The EU will take stock of this reflection and, on the basis of initiatives from the Commission, prepare for an EU position in view of the High-Level Forum IV on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul 2011.