



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

Partners in Population and Development – PPD Secretariat to express our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the people of Morocco in the wake of the devastating earthquake that has recently struck your beautiful country. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families during this incredibly challenging time.

Distinguished partners and colleagues,

I am deeply honored to stand before you today as the officer in charge, representing the PPD Secretariat on this auspicious occasion of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in 2023. This year's theme, "Solidarity, Equity, and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" emphasizes the critical importance of collaboration and collective action as we strive towards a more equitable and sustainable world. Today, we are particularly focused on the partnership between our organization, the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) Secretariat, and our valued partners in achieving these goals.

Before we delve into the specifics of our partnership and its significance in the context of South-South Cooperation, let us take a moment to reflect on the broader concept of solidarity, equity, and partnership. These principles lie at the heart of the United Nations and are fundamental to our collective pursuit of a better world.

Solidarity is at the core of the United Nations and South-South Cooperation. It is the idea that, regardless of our differences, we are one global family, and we must stand together to address the pressing challenges that face

humanity. Solidarity calls for shared responsibility and collective action in the pursuit of the SDGs. By joining forces, we can harness our collective strength to make a meaningful impact on the lives of billions around the world.



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Equity is another fundamental principle that underpins our efforts. We understand that not all nations share the same level of development, resources, or opportunities. South-South Cooperation acknowledges these disparities and seeks to bridge the gap by promoting equity. It means ensuring that the benefits of development reach everyone, leaving no one behind. Equity is not just about equal distribution; it is about creating fair and inclusive systems that empower all people to thrive.

Partnership is the key to success in achieving the SDGs. The PPD Secretariat has played a crucial role in fostering partnerships among countries in the Global South, particularly in the areas of population and development. These partnerships have led to the exchange of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and collaborative efforts to address common challenges. It is through these partnerships that we unlock the potential of South-South Cooperation and maximize our impact on sustainable development.

As the PPD Secretariat, we have committed ourselves to fostering these principles through our work, specifically in the field of population and development. Our partnership with like-minded organizations and nations in the Global South is a testament to our dedication to these ideals.

The United Nations has set ambitious targets in the form of the Sustainable Development Goals, a blueprint for addressing the world's most pressing challenges by 2030. Achieving these goals requires unwavering solidarity among nations, equity in access to resources and opportunities, and genuine partnership that transcends borders.

Our partnership with the members of the PPD has exemplified these principles in action. Together, we have worked tirelessly to promote sustainable development, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reduce inequalities in our member countries. We have pooled our expertise, resources, and experiences to address common challenges and seize shared opportunities.

In doing so, we have unlocked the true potential of South-South Cooperation. We have seen the power of collaboration in building resilience, improving health outcomes, and empowering communities. We have witnessed the transformative impact of joint efforts in eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality, and ensuring access to quality education and healthcare for all.



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Yet, as we celebrate our achievements, we must also acknowledge that there is much work to be done. The world continues to grapple with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change remains a looming threat, and inequalities persist within and between nations. Our commitment to South-South Cooperation has never been more critical.

Therefore, on this United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in 2023, let us renew our commitment to the principles of solidarity, equity, and partnership. Let us redouble our efforts to unlock the full potential of South-South Cooperation as a driving force for sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs.

Our partnership with the PPD and our fellow nations in the Global South is a beacon of hope. Together, we can pave the way towards a more equitable, sustainable, and just world. As we continue this journey, let us be inspired by the words of former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said, "More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that is why we have the United Nations."

Thank you, and may our collective efforts lead us toward a brighter and more equitable future for all.