

27th Conference of Parties (COP27) of the UNCCC

Statement of Dr Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre

We all are aware of the magnitude of the climate crisis the world is facing and that developing countries, which historically have not been responsible for the emissions that puts at risk the life in the planet, are the most affected but have the lowest capacity to address it.

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organization of developing countries, attaches particular importance to and focuses its work on the intersection of climate change policies with other policy frameworks.

The fulfillment and further expansion of the commitments by the developed countries on climate finance demands genuine additions to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Climate finance must not increase the debt burden of recipient developing countries. Likewise, an effective financing facility for loss and damages, distinct from adaptation finance, needs to be established.

We welcome the recognition by the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right, as well as the right to access to clean water. We hope that COP27 agrees on actions to realize these rights.

Climate change action is not possible without wide and timely access to technologies. An effective fulfillment of the developed countries' obligations in this regard is indispensable. A suitable international regime needs to ensure that green technologies are treated as 'public goods' and facilitate patent-free green technology transfers and dissemination.

The initiatives to link climate change with trade rules may create trade barriers to developing countries' participation in the world market. The UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement should remain the primary framework for addressing climate change.

The international investment regime is inadequate to promote green projects that reduce CO₂ emissions and promote sustainable development. It also needs a profound reform.

Climate change is also about impacts on human health. This is another matter that requires attention in the climate change context and not just as a purely public health issue.

Finally, the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation should be fully exploited through appropriate national ecosystems that enable developing countries to engage in and benefit from such a cooperation.

We commend the government of Egypt for the organization of this COP and its efforts to reach meaningful outcomes for the countries of the South.

Sharm El-Sheik, November 17, 2022.