

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GLADYS URBANEJA DURAN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF  
VENEZUELA TO FAO IN THE OCASSION OF TAKING OVER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP FOR THE PERIOD 2012 OF THE G77 AND CHINA.**

**ROME CHAPTER.**

**11 january 2012.**

Excellencies Ambassadors.

Distinguished Permanent Representatives, Alternate Representatives and Members of the Diplomatic Missions accredited to FAO and other UN agencies based in Rome.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me on behalf of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to express the satisfaction of our country, to assume the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, Chapter Rome, for the period 2012.

We reiterate our gratitude to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, for their confidence in applying for Venezuela, as well as to members of the other Regional Groups forming the G77, having endorsed and accepted this choice.

On this occasion I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding coordinating work of the Permanent Representative of Morocco, H.E. Ambassador Hassan Aboyoub during the exercise of the Chairmanship of the G77 and China in 2011.

Likewise, I would like to thank Dr. José Graziano Da Silva, the new FAO Director General, for accepting the invitation of the G77 and China Steering Committee to this Handover of the Chairmanship, and we hope that under his leadership FAO is able to cope with the pressing challenges that humanity is facing as a result of the current global crisis, which led to high food prices, while we ensure the full support of the Chairmanship of the G77 and China to his management. We feel called by his address to the Plenary of the FAO Council in April and November 2011, when he said: *"I will be able to do what we can do together"*.

Since its establishment, at the First United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development held in 1964, a group of 77 countries agreed on a joint statement reaffirming their common purposes, for unity, solidarity and development cause.

Inspired by these strong convictions, and by the need to end unfair global systems coming from colonial and imperialist times, they agreed to begin a new era which would serve to eliminate the division of the world in areas of wealth and intolerable poverty, fostering the creation of international economic relations stable and healthy, promoting international cooperation, which would allow countries to have a self-sustained growth and economic development, thereby ensuring lasting stability and global security.

The G77 now has 132 members and has become a major player in diplomacy on economic, political and social issues, strengthening multilateralism and promoting ideas, concepts and initiatives to implement the United Nations Charter and hence the performance of the fundamental human rights, based on its broadest sense "*erga omnes*", which means obligations "must be met over the world and all its inhabitants".

The premise that the true wealth of a nation is its people, has helped strengthen the role of the United Nations, to give the highest priority while better understanding the problems of development and its accomplishment as a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for peace.

The G77 has evolved to take action to consolidate its renewed commitments taking positions on all issues and activities of the United Nations system, related to its goals and objectives since its inception.

The challenges and aspirations of the G77 in the last 47 years have been confirmed in the many agreements, resolutions and agendas that are defined at different levels, internally in the Group as an agreed platform among developing countries, to move forward with the achievement of their common interests.

Through its collective action, the G77 has acquired strength and ability to influence the international agenda, which would be impossible to achieve individually. The Summits, Conferences and most important Resolutions reached during the last four decades in the UN system; collect our highest aspirations and concerns in order to promote justice and equality.

Since 2007 the world has witnessed and suffered an economic, financial, food, climate and energy crisis, reducing the gains made in previous years by

developing countries, which affected export earnings, decreasing remittances and external sources of funding. Therefore, we emphasize the need ever more urgent that the United Nations system, as the most universal organization, should play with greater strength and efficiency, its fundamental role in decision-making on economic policies at the international level, which effectively contributes to achieving the development goals of our countries, those especially affected and in some cases, devastated as a result of these crises.

Likewise, consensus must be achieved to allow adequate mobilization of resources from the international community to implement programs of economic and technical cooperation, knowledge transfer and capacity development, giving special attention to least developed countries, and the most vulnerable, without conditioning and in accordance with the best interest of each country.

For this strategy, the South-South and Triangular Cooperation managed by middle-income countries, offers great potential, given the achievements so far in regional and sub regional levels, without in any way, replacing larger disbursements through North - South Cooperation.

In this context, FAO, as an intergovernmental forum, must base its operations on a multilateral approach, transparent, inclusive and with full participation of all members in decision-making, and ensuring that the rights and interests of all countries are properly cared for, without privileging small groups or interests of large corporations. For this, the G77 + China must continue its leadership as the spokesman for the goals and challenges of developing countries.

Decision making in FAO is delegated to the sole responsibility of its member states. Even though the contribution of civil society and the private sector is welcomed as a contribution to the voices of the peoples and their organizations; these inclusive processes should not leak the interests of companies involved in financial markets and transnational corporations, which contradicts the principles, mission and mandate of this Organization.

Currently, there are many challenges at various levels, in order to ensure the human right to food, food security and nutrition of our people. For instance the proper production and marketing of food to cope with their speculation in the stock market, main reason for the rise in prices and, consequently, the main element that emphasizes the structural famine in all FAO member countries. Unfortunately, to this day, hunger is a scourge that is also moving to countries

with higher levels of development.

Therefore, FAO has the responsibility to continue to build balances to address the current crisis of capitalism which has ramifications in the political, economic, environmental, moral and food aspects.

Today, FAO has the historic duty to ensure within its competence that both current and future generations can enjoy free and healthy food production; access to environmentally friendly technologies; a fair distribution of arable land; the necessary funding for the entire chain of production and marketing of food, without conditions that may undermine the sovereignty and independence of the recipient countries; to protect against the ravages of nature; technical assistance tailored to the populations in need; as well as access to international markets free of tariffs and non tariff barriers; trade-distorting, in short, a FAO for humanity as a whole and not for the interests of the haves.

We reaffirm, that industrialized countries have a share of the responsibility in funding the growth and development of the undeveloped world, who have as fundamental assumptions the opening of their markets to commodities of developing countries, (although access to markets should not be limited to commodities), as well as the implementation of cooperative programs that allow technology transfer that may lead to improved productivity and competitiveness of goods produced in developing countries, enabling them to increase their income export, thus raising its Gross Domestic Product, GDP, and begin the transition to levels of growth and development that will allow them to be inserted in a productive and appropriate way in the global economy.

In this sense, international technical cooperation is essential as a tool for building national capacities in the primary production and industrial transformation sectors. Therefore, the transfer of new technology is crucial to achieve qualitative improvements in the various areas of their economies.

Finally, from our Chairmanship of the G77 + China, which begins today, I consider very important to maintain a permanent dialogue and fruitful exchange of views and expectations with Member States and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the regional groups of Africa, the Near East, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, regarding work plans and tasks that we need to undertake and carry on together through the various governing bodies and technical committees together during 2012.

A strong and effective G77 is now more urgent than ever. It is therefore imperative in this exercise, to define the priorities and concerns of the 132 countries that coexist in the G77 Rome Chapter, in order to, properly and creatively focus our work on issues and activities related to FAO; through appropriate, respectful and constructive dialogue, with the other regional groups that make life in this organization, to find realistic and feasible solutions, for the benefit of our peoples and to enhancing their performance on the field - preferably through coordinated action with the other agencies in Rome-.

Therefore, we must take firm steps towards the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, and the Reform of both FAO and the Food Security Committee. This will be possible, ensuring the implementation of an effective flexible and evaluable decentralization, counting on the support of international and South-South Cooperation, in agreement with the governments, focusing on participation and empowerment of beneficiaries, and other actors involved in the formulation, implementation and evaluation, to guarantee the sustainability of development and the effective action of the population, in order to speed up the fight to eradicate poverty and hunger, to be able to provide the world and the new generations with a dawn of hope at the beginning of the year 2015 and proceed in a sustainable way towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals that have not been achieved...

Thank you very much!