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Letter dated 25 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-seventh annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2013 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 35, 36, 40, 44, 57, 61, 63, 66, 68, 70, 76, 118, 124, 125, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142 and 143.

(Signed) Peter **Thomson**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Fiji to the United Nations
Chair of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Group of 77

New York, 26 September 2013

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2013 on the occasion of their thirty-seventh annual meeting. The Ministers reviewed the world economic situation and the development challenges faced by developing countries and adopted the following Declaration:

1. The Ministers pledged to continue to work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Group of 77 and, in this regard, underscored the historic importance of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77, to be commemorated in June 2014.
2. The Ministers stressed the fact that the focus of the developing countries is to continue to find means to achieve their developmental objectives, in particular the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They also stressed the importance of elaborating a post-2015 development agenda that truly meets the needs of the developing world.
3. In this context, they noted that the ongoing world financial and economic crisis was negatively affecting the growth prospects of many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, reversing the development trends of the recent past and leading to an increased incidence of poverty and slower progress in poverty eradication. Ministers noted that many developing countries, because of several challenges, were unable to mitigate impacts of the crisis on development. They reaffirmed that recovery was being threatened by new adverse circumstances, including protectionism measures, turbulence in the global financial markets and widespread fiscal strains.
4. The Ministers emphasized that even though the world had undergone far-reaching changes in the past two decades and significant progress had been made in many important fields of development, through national as well as international efforts, developing countries continue to face serious challenges in eradicating poverty and advancing their levels of development. These challenges are being exacerbated by an unfavourable international economic environment and the lack of reform of institutions of global economic and financial governance. Ministers noted with concern that the number of people living in absolute poverty had increased in many developing countries. In facing these challenges, the Ministers affirmed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the right to development continue to remain relevant, and emphasized their central importance as the foundation of the current and post-2015 global development agenda, including in the context of the global partnership for development.

5. The Ministers stressed that poverty eradication was the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

6. The Ministers expressed their deep concern for the constraints on the fight against poverty arising from the current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the continuing food insecurity, volatility of capital flows and extreme volatility of commodity prices, the energy crisis and the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries. They reiterated that special attention must be brought to the structural roots of poverty in the international system, hindering the efforts of the developing countries in their fight against poverty.

7. The Ministers further stressed that, in order to enable the Governments of developing countries to effectively eradicate poverty, developing countries must ensure national ownership of their own development agenda, which entails preserving their own policy space backed by a strong political commitment to reduce poverty in line with their national priorities and circumstances. As such, the Governments of developing countries must formulate their own development strategies to assist the poor through policies and actions including, but not limited to, the provision of universal and affordable access to basic services; the provision of a well-designed social protection system; the empowerment of individuals to seize economic opportunities; and measures to ensure the protection of the environment.

8. The Ministers reiterated that policies and development efforts targeted at poverty eradication must be responsive to the challenges as well as the opportunities of sustainable development at both the international and national levels. In this regard, a supportive, fair financial architecture and international trading system as well as a genuine global partnership for sustainable development that includes clear-cut goals are crucial to complement the efforts of national Governments.

9. The Ministers accordingly underscored the need for a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies. They emphasized that international cooperation must be enhanced, including the fulfilment of commitments of internationally agreed official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity-building and technical support, including technology transfer.

10. The Ministers underlined that debt crises tend to be costly, disruptive and followed by cuts in public spending, affecting developing countries, especially heavily indebted developing countries, and that no path to growth can be construed or fostered with unsustainable debt overhang. They recognized the importance of debt relief, including debt cancellation and debt restructuring. Debt-restructuring processes should have as their core element a determination of real payment capacity so that they may not compromise national growth perspectives. In this regard, they reiterated the urgent need for the international community to examine options for an effective, equitable, durable, independent and development-oriented debt restructuring and international debt resolution mechanism and called upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums with that objective.

11. The Ministers recalled that sovereign debt management has been a crucial issue for developing countries, both as a cause for concern in past decades and as a

strong point in more recent years owing to the activities of vulture funds. Recent examples of vulture funds' actions in international courts have revealed their speculative and profit-seeking nature. These vulture funds pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes, for both developing and developed countries. The Ministers reiterated the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries and that those funds should not supersede a State's right to protect its people under international law.

12. The Ministers expressed serious concern about the substantial increase in the financial stability risks of many developed economies and, in particular, their high structural fragilities in financing sovereign debt created as a result of transferring private risk to the public sector. In this regard, they called for urgent and coherent solutions to reduce sovereign risk in developed economies to prevent contagion and to mitigate its impact on the international financial system.

13. The Ministers stressed the need for a more transparent international credit rating system that takes fully into account the needs, concerns and peculiarities of developing countries, especially heavily indebted developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers expressed concern about the soundness of the methodology used by the major credit-rating agencies. They emphasized that greater competition among rating agencies is necessary to avoid oligopolistic tendencies and their negative effects. The Ministers reiterated that inadequate assessments of the solvency of debtors have the potential to cause or exacerbate crises, rendering the financial system more vulnerable to cliff effects. Ministers stated that it was necessary to continue the discussions on the role of credit-rating agencies with a view to proposing concrete policies aimed at reducing dependency on them by enhancing their supervision and increasing competition through the establishment of independent assessment mechanisms. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of a General Assembly thematic debate on the role of credit-rating agencies in the international financial system on 10 September 2013 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/198](#).

14. The Ministers reaffirmed that official development assistance (ODA) remains essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. The global financial and economic crisis cannot be used as an excuse to avoid fulfilling existing aid commitments by developed countries or making further commitments. An effective response to the ongoing economic crisis requires the timely implementation of existing aid commitments and an urgent and unavoidable need for donors to fulfil them.

15. The Ministers stressed that developed countries must meet and scale up their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets made, inter alia, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, at the G8 summit at Gleneagles, in the Doha Declaration for Financing for Development and at other relevant forums. An enhanced predictable and sustainable flow of ODA is essential in meeting the regular development challenges as well as the new and emerging challenges in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries.

16. The Ministers expressed concern over the fact that for the second time ODA fell for two consecutive years and that developed countries were still far from achieving the long-standing goal of mobilizing 0.7 per cent of gross national

product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries, including the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP to the least developed countries. They called upon developed countries to urgently fulfil the ODA commitments they had made, individually and collectively, including the timely implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the latest MDG Gap Task Force Report.

17. The Ministers stated that international trade was a vital tool for providing long-term sustainable growth. The decline in trade due to the global financial and economic crisis has had a severe impact on developing countries. The fall in exports and the loss of export revenues, trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries, restricted access to trade finance and reduced investment in production diversification and in the promotion of exports remain matters of concern. In order to fully harness the potential of trade, it is important to uphold a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries.

18. In this context, the Ministers underlined the necessity of a timely conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which must fully respect its development mandate and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. The Ministers called for a balanced and tangible outcome of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, in favour of developing countries, especially least developed countries. The outcome should deliver progress in the trade negotiations on agricultural products as well as development towards compliance with the Doha Development Agenda.

19. The Ministers reiterated that developed countries should provide effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building tailored to the specific needs and constraints of developing countries. They also called upon the developed countries to provide adequate support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance of WTO in order to address the supply-side and trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity constraints of least developed countries. Moreover, the international financial and trading systems should adopt and implement appropriate policy measures to facilitate foreign direct investment in developing countries, including investment guarantee schemes targeting productive sectors.

20. The Ministers emphasized the importance of facilitating accession to WTO. The accession process should be accelerated without political impediment and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, in full compliance with WTO rules. This would contribute to the rapid and full integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

21. The Ministers expressed the view that the capacity to generate full employment and decent work are fundamentally linked to reviving and enhancing productive development strategies, through adequate finance, investment and trade policies. In this regard, they reaffirmed the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development. They also stressed the need to maintain coherence between

macroeconomic and job creation policies in order to ensure inclusive and resilient global economic growth.

22. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and stressed the need to launch an intergovernmental process, within the United Nations, to develop the global strategy on youth employment.

23. The Ministers expressed their commitment to strengthening efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and shaping the international development agenda post-2015. The Ministers called upon the international community to redouble all efforts for the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 through concrete measures.

24. The Ministers noted the progress achieved so far in reaching the Millennium Development Goals. However, they expressed their concern with the unevenness of and gaps in the achievement and the vast socioeconomic and environmental challenges that remain in developing countries. They stressed that the Millennium Development Goals have provided a common vision and contributed to remarkable progress. In this context, the Ministers reiterated that the Millennium Development Goals remained critical for meeting the basic needs of people in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, African countries, conflict and post-conflict countries and countries under foreign occupation, many of which are not on track to achieve the Goals by 2015, as well as for addressing specific development challenges facing middle-income countries.

25. The Ministers underscored the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of Goal 8 in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They recalled that without substantial international support and systemic changes, several of the Goals were likely to be missed in many developing countries by 2015. The Ministers called upon the international community to intensify its efforts to provide enhanced means of implementation to the developing countries through a renewed global partnership based on Goal 8 in the collective quest to eradicate poverty and deprivation.

26. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals held on 25 September.

27. The Ministers stressed the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

28. The Ministers reaffirmed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as the basis for the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The sustainable development goals should be a driver for the implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole. While the development of the sustainable development goals must not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the Ministers stressed the need for a serious concerted effort in the Open Working Group towards developing a set of aspirational, concise, action-oriented and universally applicable sustainable development goals. They further underscored the fundamental importance for the sustainable

development goals to build upon and complement the Millennium Development Goals, towards the overarching objective of achieving poverty eradication.

29. The Ministers reaffirmed that the guiding principles of the sustainable development goals must be based on those enumerated in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and be consistent with international law. The process and outcome of the Open Working Group should fully respect all Rio Principles, in particular the principles of sovereignty of States over their natural resources, and common but differentiated responsibilities. They therefore emphasized the need to increase efforts towards changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

30. The Ministers reaffirmed that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication in its three dimensions, and in this regard the Ministers noted that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development in harmony with nature.

31. The Ministers reaffirmed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and welcomed the launch of the different follow-up processes agreed on in the outcome, including the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The Ministers welcomed the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General for the establishment of a global mechanism for technology facilitation, which is considered as a way forward to implement paragraph 273 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

32. The Ministers welcomed the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2013, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day. The participants discussed different economic approaches in the context of sustainable development to further a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and the Earth, pursuant to Assembly resolution [67/214](#).

33. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the High-level Political Forum, which replaces the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Ministers stressed the importance of its universal character and for the Forum to carry out the functions mandated for it by paragraph 85 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in all aspects — economic, social and environmental — of sustainable development, and is consistent with the strengthening of the role of the Economic and Social Council, builds on the strengths and addresses the shortcomings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

34. The Ministers stressed that progress in achieving the sustainable development goals and realizing the post-2015 development agenda would depend on progress in creating an international enabling environment that is pro-development and in delivering the relevant means of implementation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology and capacity-building.

35. The Ministers recalled that the initiative to strengthen the Economic and Social Council was aimed at making the Council more relevant, effective and responsive to current and emerging global sustainable development challenges as a central mechanism for coordinating the activities of the United Nations system with a relevant role in ensuring the implementation of its decisions in the activities of agencies, funds and programmes through their executive boards. In this regard, Ministers reiterated that a strengthened Economic and Social Council must stay focused on development and must remain the principal organ of the United Nations for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues relating to sustainable development, as well as for the implementation of international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and coordinate the follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. They recognized the key role of the Council in achieving the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Ministers noted with satisfaction the adoption of General Assembly resolution [68/1](#) on the review of resolution [61/16](#).

36. The Ministers stressed that the post-2015 development agenda must be arrived at through transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. In this regard, they noted with appreciation the decision taken at the special event of the General Assembly to follow up on the efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals to launch intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

37. Recalling the affirmation by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, the Ministers emphasized that poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, Ministers took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015” ([A/68/202](#)). They underlined their strong support for the call made by the Secretary-General in the report for ending poverty by 2030.

38. The Ministers reaffirmed the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. They stressed that both the process and the outcome of the post-2015 development agenda must be fully consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development contained in its outcome document, entitled “The future we want” and in accordance with the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

39. The Ministers emphasized that the post-2015 development agenda should be an agenda for development. Emphasizing that sustained and inclusive economic growth in developing countries is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Ministers stressed that the post-2015 development agenda should promote rapid and sustained

economic growth in developing countries and fully preserve their developmental policy space and also integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development.

40. The Ministers further stressed that the post-2015 development agenda must carry forward and finish the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. The human development imperatives enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals — eradication of poverty and hunger, promoting universal education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases — must remain at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

41. The post-2015 development agenda should also address other challenges faced by developing countries, such as universal access to modern energy services, food security and nutrition, full and productive employment and decent work for all, skilled jobs and training, agriculture and rural development, building of productive capacity, sustainable cities and urban settlements and infrastructure development.

42. The Ministers emphasized that the post-2015 development agenda must also meaningfully address the reform of the institutions of global economic governance in order to strengthen the voice of developing countries.

43. Cautioning against the severe imbalance in the global consumption of resources and noting the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, the Ministers called for the post-2015 development agenda to focus on changing the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

44. Noting with concern the significant shortfall in the global partnership for development under the Millennium Development Goals, which contributed to the lack of achievement of many goals and targets, the Ministers called for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the MDG Gap Task Force Report. They emphasized the need for developed countries to urgently fulfil the ODA commitments they have made, individually and collectively, including the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA by 2015, including 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP as ODA for least developed countries.

45. The Ministers stressed that the intergovernmental negotiation process to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda, to be launched at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, will need to focus on the substantive aspects and goals, taking fully into account the outcomes of the various follow-up processes mandated by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Ministers reaffirmed the centrality of the intergovernmental process in the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda.

46. The Ministers stressed the importance of providing financial resources for the post-2015 development agenda. They underscored the importance of strengthening the global partnership for development consistent with Goal 8, to complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goals and to enhance this global partnership for the post-2015 development agenda.

47. The Ministers recalled that the world financial and economic crisis of 2007-2008 and its subsequent consequences for development have underscored the gaps and failures in global economic governance, including within the international financial

institutions, and the urgent need for a global, universal and integrated response by the international community. The 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform of the quota formula should be urgently completed in order to ensure that the IMF quotas and governance better reflect the relative weight of emerging and developing countries in the global economy. However, the redistribution of voting rights aimed at reflecting reality alone will not resolve the structural problems of financial instability and unavailability of liquidity needed by developing countries to generate the necessary sustainable growth and development. Furthermore, authorities of the Bretton Woods institutions must be designated on the basis of their individual merits through an open and fair process of selection. As long as IMF does not reflect the new realities in the global economy and its Director General keeps being designated through a process that lacks transparency, its legitimacy will remain questionable.

48. The Ministers reiterated the need for an international financial architecture, one that reflects the realities of the twenty-first century, including a more, and properly, regulated international financial sector to reduce speculative investment so that capital markets can be mobilized to achieve sustainable development and play a constructive role in the global development agenda. They also noted the fundamental problems of financial stability and unavailability of liquidity for developing countries in need to generate the necessary sustainable growth and development.

49. The Ministers underscored the importance of developing countries being equitably represented in these international financial institutions and have a strengthened voice in global economic governance. In the context of structural reform of the international financial institutions, there is an urgent need for macroeconomic coordination in order to achieve a long-lasting recovery and foster inclusive growth, job creation, poverty and hunger eradication and trade and development. They stressed the importance of the international financial institutions taking concrete steps to democratize their actions, including increasing the participation of developing countries. Moreover, it is critically important that the financial sector be transparent and properly regulated so that the capital markets can be mobilized to achieve sustainable growth.

50. The Ministers welcomed the agreement to hold the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 7 and 8 October 2013.

51. The Ministers reaffirmed paragraph 90 of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and stressed the need to hold a follow-up international conference on financing for development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration before 2015 with a view to contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process.

52. The Ministers firmly rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterated the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. They emphasized that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. They therefore called upon the international community to neither recognize those measures nor to apply them.

53. The Ministers emphasized the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agriculture

development as an integral part of the international development agenda. They underlined the need for sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production and called for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

54. The Ministers welcomed the global launch of the International Year of Quinoa, 2013, which constituted the first step in an ongoing process of focusing world attention on the important role of quinoa, and urged the sharing of good practices on the implementation of activities for the Year, as indicated in the master plan of activities for the Year, entitled “A future sown thousands of years ago”, in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They also welcomed the holding of the high-level panel on food security and nutrition on 20 February 2013. The biodiversity and nutritional value of quinoa make it central in providing food security and nutrition and eradicating poverty, as well as in promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their importance for social, economic and environmental development.

55. The Ministers emphasized that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, which affect developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium, and long term by national Governments and the international community. They reiterated that the root causes of food insecurity are poverty and inequity and remained concerned that excessive volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and nutrition.

56. The Ministers recalled that food security and nutrition are essential dimensions of sustainable development and expressed concern that developing countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, further threatening food security. The Ministers stressed that the attainment of food security and the move towards sustainable agriculture, including increased food production and agricultural investment, enhanced productive capacities, improved agricultural management and development and support for family farming and smallholder farmers in developing countries, are crucial issues for developing countries. Agriculture, which is broadly understood to include crop and livestock production, fisheries, and forestry, is the most important sector in many developing countries and is central to the survival of millions of people. The Ministers stressed the need to increase investment in agriculture and rural development, including through international cooperation, with a view to increasing the agricultural production of developing countries, many of which have become net food importers.

57. The Ministers underscored the fact that agricultural subsidies and other trade distortions by developed countries had severely harmed the agricultural sector in developing countries, limiting the ability of this key sector to contribute meaningfully to poverty eradication, rural development and sustainable, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. The elimination of such subsidies is a fundamental part of the global effort to promote agriculture and rural development and to eradicate poverty and hunger.

58. The Ministers reaffirmed that market access to developing country agricultural products was equally important. In this regard, they stressed the necessity of a timely conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which must fully respect its development mandate and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, including with regard to trade in agricultural products. A successful outcome of the Doha Round will help to ensure growth in global trade and create new market access opportunities for developing countries.

59. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [66/296](#) of 17 September 2012 on the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York, in order to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including pursuit of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the resolution, the Assembly decided that the World Conference should result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document and encouraged the participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference. The Ministers also took note of the outcome document of the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held from 10 to 12 June 2013 in Alta, Norway.

60. The Ministers stressed the central role of the United Nations in global economic governance, which essentially aims at enhancing the global partnership for development, with a view to creating a supportive and enabling global environment for the attainment of sustainable development as well as to ensure financial and economic stability. In this context, the General Assembly and a strengthened Economic and Social Council could both act to mitigate the impact of the international financial and economic crisis and to ensure developing countries' right to policy space for sustainable development.

61. The Ministers reaffirmed their view that moving towards a more legitimate and accountable global governance demands the inclusive representation, universal participation and the democratic process of the General Assembly. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture should therefore be seriously strengthened, internationally coordinated and lead to the full participation of developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making and norm-setting. The Ministers reiterated their support for a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, including enhancement of the voting powers of developing countries in a time-bound manner, which would enable greater equity between developed and developing countries.

62. The Ministers underscored the need for the United Nations system to seriously address the introduction of new institutional arrangements to bring coherence and coordination among distinct sets of rules applying to various areas of economic activity. The United Nations system should address the linkage between economic globalization and sustainable development, in particular by identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth.

63. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ensuring synergy between the work of United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and other international organizations that deal with, among other development issues, trade, finance, labour and capital, intellectual property rights, health and technology.

64. The Ministers stressed that the United Nations was the appropriate intergovernmental forum for the post-2015 development agenda.

65. The Ministers reaffirmed the crucial importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in providing guidance on the operational activities for development of the United Nations. In that context, the General Assembly had reaffirmed the principles and fundamental characteristics of operational activities and provided detailed policy guidance and an ambitious workload for the United Nations development system for the four-year period. The Ministers acknowledged and reaffirmed the call upon the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to accord poverty eradication the highest priority and for all of the agencies of the system to make it the overarching and underlying objective of all their programmes and projects.

66. The Ministers recalled that despite progress in discussion and dialogue and cooperation at the international level, migration remains inadequately reflected in development frameworks, development agendas and sectoral policies at both the national and global levels. The slow pace taken to address migration policies with the reality of human mobility at those levels will continue to expose migrants to negative public perceptions and inadequate protection of their rights.

67. The Ministers held the view that addressing global migration as a global phenomenon was supportive of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. International migration and development mutually influence one another. The Ministers stressed that migration, if properly managed, can serve as a powerful catalyst for development, thereby benefiting communities of origin and destination, as recognized in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013.

68. The Ministers reaffirmed that technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of cross-cutting sustainability dimensions, as in food and agriculture, water and sanitation, energy, industrial development and chemicals and waste management. They stressed that developing countries require increased access to technology on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, in order to shift to a more sustainable development path. To help developing countries overcome certain obstacles to economic expansion and growth so as to achieve specific development goals, it is imperative that the international community take urgent action to bridge the technological divide so as to promote industrialization and inclusive growth across the developing world.

69. The Ministers stressed that technology is one of the key means of implementation, along with finance, capacity-building and trade, and called for an early establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

70. The Ministers recognized the need for South-South cooperation that allows emerging and long-standing energy producers of the global South to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices among themselves on a sustained basis in an effort to address their energy challenges to achieve sustainable development.

71. The Ministers acknowledged the multifaceted nature of the linkages between culture and development. While the full extent of the linkages has yet to be explored, there is a growing consensus that strategies to achieve development goals have to be embedded in the cultural traditions of each society. The Ministers underscored that culture is both an enabler and a driver of development and reiterated the importance of ensuring that culture is recognized as such in the post-2015 development agenda. The Ministers called for continuous dialogue and negotiations to ensure the effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into social, environmental and economic development policies at all levels.

72. The Ministers recalled the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They recognized that, while economic growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, to face the ongoing adverse impacts of multiple crises on development and the serious challenges those impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in Africa.

73. The Ministers expressed their profound concern that the commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010 as articulated at the Gleneagles summit meeting was not entirely reached, and in this regard they stressed the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil the Gleneagles and other donors' commitments to increase aid through a variety of means, including the provision of new additional resources, technology transfer and capacity-building to African countries, and to support their sustainable development.

74. The Ministers called for continued support for African development initiatives, including the continental strategic vision framework for socioeconomic development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

75. On the other hand, the Ministers welcomed the support that some developing countries have extended to Africa through the South-South and triangular cooperation programmes.

76. The Ministers expressed their concern for the situation in the least developed countries, which continues to deteriorate as a consequence of the ongoing multiple and mutually exacerbating global crises. The ongoing global financial and economic crisis is clearly undermining development in the least developed countries. They recalled that the modest development gains that the least developed countries made over the years are being reversed, pushing a larger number of their people to extreme poverty. Many least developed countries continue to be lagging behind in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

77. The Ministers emphasized the full and effective implementation of the commitments made in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. The Ministers further underlined the critical need for realizing expeditiously the renewed and strengthened global partnership for the least developed countries in order to overcome their structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable half of the

least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation from the category by 2020.

78. The Ministers recalled that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 and the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005, and noted with concern that insufficient steps had been taken at the international level to address the vulnerabilities and effectively support sustainable development efforts, including in achieving the internationally agreed development goals.

79. The Ministers recalled that climate change and sea-level rise pose the greatest threat to the survival and viability of small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, and in this regard called upon the international community to commit to urgently increasing international cooperation to support those efforts, particularly through increased financial resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and know-how and increased participation of small island developing States in international economic decision-making.

80. The Ministers welcomed the decision to convene the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 in Apia and the convening of regional and interregional meetings of small island developing States to prepare their priorities for the Conference. In this context, the Ministers took note of the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting, which took place from 26 to 28 July 2013 in Bridgetown, and called for enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

81. The Ministers reiterated their recognition of the special needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by the remoteness from world markets, their concern that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks as well as to the multiple challenges the international community is facing, including the financial and economic crisis and climate change, and stressed the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. They therefore reaffirmed the need to urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries through their genuine partnership, with sufficient support and cooperation from the international community for the effective implementation of priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and its successor programme.

82. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the General Assembly in its resolutions [66/214](#) and [67/222](#) to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference

on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, which should be preceded by regional and global as well as thematic preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner. In this regard, the Ministers called upon the international community, including the United Nations system, development partners, international organizations, private sector institutions and academia to critically consider the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to help develop priorities for a new, more comprehensive, common action-oriented framework for landlocked developing countries for the next decade.

83. The Ministers recognized that middle-income countries still face significant development challenges and underlined that despite the recent progress achieved and the efforts made by middle-income countries, 75 per cent of the world's poor population lives in those countries. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the achievement of full employment and the creation of jobs for youth, the diversification of economies and the development of technologies continue to be huge challenges for middle-income countries.

84. Furthermore the Ministers underlined the increasing solidarity and role played by middle-income countries in the area of South-South cooperation in support of the development efforts of other developing countries.

85. In this context, the Ministers took note of the outcomes of the high-level conference of middle-income countries on the theme "Challenges for sustainable development and international cooperation in middle-income countries: the role of networks for prosperity", organized by the Government of Costa Rica and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization from 12 to 14 June 2013.

86. The Ministers affirmed that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

87. The Ministers recalled once again that climate change is one of the most serious global challenges of our times. They underscored the fact that developing countries continue to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the impact of response measures, even though they are the least responsible for climate change. Accordingly, they called for developed countries to take the lead in responding to climate change. Climate change threatens not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies.

88. The Ministers stressed that the developed countries, given their historical responsibility, need to take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and to provide financial and technological support to developing countries.

89. The Ministers noted the progress made towards addressing climate change at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in 2012 in Doha, through concrete decisions on remaining work under the Bali Action Plan, a plan of work under the

Durban Platform and a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, with a clear timeline. With respect to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, however, ambition is lacking; they hoped that its level would be enhanced in 2014 as agreed at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

90. The Ministers reiterated that the extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing countries.

91. The Ministers noted the progress in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and emphasized that the outcome of the Working Group must enable further enhancement of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. Ministers reiterated that the work of the Working Group and its outcome must be in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions stipulated in the Convention, including the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The process under the Working Group must not lead to a reinterpretation or a rewriting of the Convention.

92. The Ministers stressed the need to urgently close the ambition gap and expressed their concern with the lack of fulfilment of commitments by developed countries. In addressing this gap, the focus must not be limited to mitigation but must also include gaps relating to finance, technology and support for capacity-building. They emphasized that developed countries must make robust and ambitious mitigation commitments, with ambitious quantitative emissions limitation reduction targets, as required by science and mandated by the Convention. In this context, the Ministers looked forward to a successful and comprehensive outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties/ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

93. The Ministers reaffirmed that desertification, land degradation and drought represent a serious concern for developing countries. International action is therefore urgently required to address the challenges. They emphasized the great importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, stressing that desertification, land degradation and drought corrode the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Ministers reiterated that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought enables countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as food security, adaptation to climate change and forced migration. In this context, the Ministers noted the holding of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek.

94. The Ministers stressed the need to cooperate at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust storms and sandstorms, including in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning. The Ministers stressed that combating such storms demands financial support and the transfer of technology from developed countries to developing countries.

95. The Ministers reaffirmed that desertification, land degradation and drought represent a serious concern for developing countries. Addressing those phenomena will enable countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as poverty eradication, food security and adaptation to climate change. While parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification should fully support the implementation of that Convention, the promotion of the exchange of knowledge on best practices and lessons learned from global and regional cooperation in combating desertification, land degradation and drought should be encouraged. They stressed that sustainable development goals and targets on desertification, land degradation and drought should address the drivers of those phenomena, as well as preventive and corrective measures.

96. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa.

97. The Ministers called upon the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure equitable allocation of resources to the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and urge donors to continue its effective replenishment to ensure that it is adequately funded in order to allow sufficient and adequate allocation of resources to its land degradation focal area.

98. The Ministers welcomed the important outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, especially the commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial flows to developing countries by 2015 and maintaining at least that level until 2020 to contribute to achievement of the Convention's three objectives. They also called upon parties to review progress in this context at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties towards adopting a final target for resource mobilization.

99. The Ministers called upon parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to expedite their national processes towards ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization so as to ensure its early entry into force.

100. The Ministers encouraged all Governments and all stakeholders to be "biodiversity champions", in response to the Hyderabad Call for Action on Biodiversity, by pledging support for biodiversity at the national, regional or global levels for one or more of the Aichi targets.

101. The Ministers stressed the need to include the financing mechanisms of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification as part of sustainable development financing in the framework of the expert committee on sustainable development financing strategy and requested that the issues be properly elaborated by the committee.

102. The Ministers noted the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 8 to 19 April 2013, and underscored the importance of the four global objectives on forests for the international community as a whole, in particular for developing countries. The fourth global objective is especially relevant for the developing countries, as it identifies the need to reverse the reduction of ODA and to mobilize new and additional financial resources from all sources, including public and private, for the implementation of sustainable forest management. In fulfilling the fourth global

objective, it is essential to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers urged developed countries to exercise strong political will and flexibility to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management.

103. The Ministers reiterated their call for the establishment of a new global forest fund in line with the principles of sustainable development. They considered this necessary in order to concentrate on the financing needs of developing countries to sustainably manage their forests, as well as to comply with their commitments under the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The establishment of a global forest fund in the framework of the United Nations to address financing gaps in sustainable forest management takes on greater urgency in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Ministers recognized and reiterated the significance of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 in resolution 62/98, which is the guide for all regions and countries when addressing conservation.

104. The Ministers recalled that the Group of 77 and China had been a major force in the negotiation of the law of the sea as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The positions of the Group of 77 and China remarkably influenced the consecration of some crucial law of the sea concepts that are inextricably linked to sustainable development, including the exclusive economic zone, where the coastal States enjoy sovereign rights over the natural resources and the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (“the Area”). The exploitation of the resources therein has to benefit mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, whether coastal or landlocked, and take into particular consideration the interests and needs of developing States.

105. In this regard, the Ministers recalled that General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV) and then the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea crystallized in a conventional norm the principle of the “common heritage of mankind”, to which the Group of 77 and China had adhered from the inception of the Group in 1967.

106. The Ministers recognized that a major challenge to developing countries has arisen with regard to the law of the sea, namely, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The exploitation of and benefit from resources of a maritime area that is part of the common heritage of mankind by a few is inconsistent with general principles of international law, including those on equity, as the Area and its resources are to benefit mankind as a whole. In this context, the Ministers stressed that the status quo is not an option.

107. The Ministers emphasized that the basic principle enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV) applicable to those resources is that of the common heritage of mankind, and that a specific legal regime for the biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction needs to be developed in the form of an implementing agreement under the Convention based on that principle. Such an implementing agreement has to be negotiated as a package and must encompass the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including genetic resources, the sharing of benefits taking into account intellectual

property rights, scientific research, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

108. The Ministers expressed their support to the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law established by General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965 for the purpose of contributing to greater knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. They recalled that the Programme and its components are one of the cornerstones of the efforts of the United Nations to promote international law and that jurists, academics, diplomats and other public officials from developing countries greatly benefit from the regional courses of international law, fellowships, publications and the Audiovisual Library of International Law. In the light of their concern about the lack of voluntary resources to support the activities of this important programme, the Ministers affirmed that all the components of the Programme of Assistance, including the regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, the seminars and regional training on international treaty laws and practice and legal publications and training materials, must be financed through the regular budget of the United Nations, starting from the biennium 2014-2015.

109. The Ministers expressed their concern over the increased frequency and scale of natural disasters in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for countries, particularly developing countries. They reiterated how disaster impacts are undermining vulnerable livelihoods, countries' economic growth and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, those challenges have been compounded by the impact of the global economic and financial crisis, the world food crisis and continuing food insecurity, the energy crisis and the challenges posed by climate change.

110. The Ministers reiterated their commitment and support to the guiding principles articulated in the annex to General Assembly resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991, as the founding resolution of the framework for the provision of United Nations humanitarian assistance. They stressed that Member States, in cooperation with United Nations humanitarian organizations, should engage in the provision of humanitarian assistance in accordance with that resolution to promote greater respect for and full adherence to humanitarian principles, humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, while engaging in negotiations for and during humanitarian operations. The Ministers stressed the importance of adhering to the provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law when providing humanitarian assistance.

111. The Ministers stressed the urgent need for the international community to ensure a predictable, flexible and adequate humanitarian funding mechanism for effective humanitarian assistance. While increased funding for humanitarian assistance, through partnerships and strengthened and flexible financial mechanisms, is important, the question of advancing stakeholder interest and accountability to people affected and donors within the concept of "value for

money” needs to be mirrored against the principles of good humanitarian donorship. In this regard, the Ministers stated that the specific role of financial institutions and the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds during the preparatory and resilience and recovery phases should be explored further. The Ministers further stressed the urgent need to invest in early warning systems to mitigate the magnitude of disasters and encouraged continued flows of financial assistance to developing countries, with a view to reducing the existing risk and prevent the emergence of new risks.

112. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly is the sole Main Committee of the Organization entrusted with responsibilities for administrative, financial and budgetary matters. In this regard, the Ministers requested that any budgetary, financial, and administrative matters, including those related to the establishment of a peacekeeping operation or a special political mission, be discussed solely in the framework of the Fifth Committee, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

113. The Ministers reaffirmed that any Secretariat and management reform efforts, including on its budget process, must not be intended to change the intergovernmental, multilateral and international nature of the Organization, but must strengthen the ability of Member States to perform their oversight and monitoring role and that prior consideration by and approval of Member States is essential in all cases where the measures to be implemented fall under the prerogatives of the Assembly. In this regard, they recall resolution [66/257](#). They also reaffirmed the right of the entire membership of the United Nations to pronounce itself on the administration of the Organization, including on budgetary matters, and the need for continuous interaction and dialogue between the Secretariat and the General Assembly aimed at fostering a positive environment for the negotiations, the decision-making process and the implementation of the reform measures.

114. The Ministers strongly supported the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In this context, they renewed their commitment to strengthen the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Ministers also urged the rest of the membership of the United Nations to actively participate in the sessions of the Committee.

115. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the Organization and that its content should fully reflect the mandates of Member States, including the United Nations financial rules and regulations.

116. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of the Group of 77 and China to the United Nations Secretariat and management reform, with a view to making the Organization more effective, representative, transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs of the Member States. The Ministers highlighted that, for those reforms to be successful, they must be predicated on broad and inclusive consultations with the General Assembly and must reflect and strengthen the Member State-driven nature of the Organization.

117. The Ministers stressed the need to submit for consideration and prior approval of the General Assembly, through its Fifth Committee, any proposal or measure related to the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the change

management team that fall within the purview of Member States in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions [64/259](#) and [66/257](#).

118. The Ministers underlined that the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments reflects changes in the relative economic situations of the Member States. The Ministers further reaffirmed the principle of “capacity to pay” as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and rejected any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contributions of developing countries. In this regard, they emphasized that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessments, such as base period, gross national income, conversion rates, low per capita income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for least developed countries and debt stock adjustment must be kept intact and are not negotiable.

119. The Ministers stressed that the current maximum assessment rate, or ceiling, had been fixed as a political compromise and is contrary to the principle of the capacity to pay and is a fundamental source of distortion in the scale of assessments. In this context, they urged the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution [55/5 C](#).

120. The Ministers affirmed that the current principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should constitute the basis for any discussion of the peacekeeping scale. In this regard, the Ministers stressed that the peacekeeping scale must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The Ministers also recalled that the economically less developed countries have limited capacity to contribute towards the budgets of peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Ministers emphasized that any discussion of the system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale should take into account the conditions of developing countries, whose current positions must not be negatively affected. The Ministers stressed in this regard that no member of the Group of 77 and China that is not a permanent member of the Security Council should be categorized above level C.

121. The Ministers reaffirmed that the financial stability of the United Nations should not be jeopardized by arbitrary measures. The Ministers stressed that any efforts to use financial contributions to push for the adoption of certain proposals are counterproductive and violate the obligations of the Member States to provide resources for the Organization, as enshrined in its Charter.

122. The Ministers noted the agreement reached in General Assembly resolution [67/261](#) on the recommendations and conclusions of the Senior Advisory Group on troop-cost reimbursements and related issues subsequent to two successive interim awards, and in this regard underlined that it should lead to the revision of the troop-cost reimbursement rates at the earliest opportunity.

123. The Ministers rejected all unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, which obstruct and sometimes impede payments of assessed contributions from members of the Group of 77 and China to the budgets of the Organization.

124. The Ministers strongly reaffirmed the legal obligation of all Member States to bear the financial expenses of the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and

without conditions. They also stressed that the special and genuine difficulties faced by some developing countries that prevent them from meeting temporarily their financial obligations should be fully taken into account and that the decisions of the General Assembly on the agenda item "Scale of assessments" must be responsive to such difficulties.

125. The Ministers stressed that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. They also reaffirmed the priorities of the Organization as approved by the Assembly and the need for the Secretary-General to reflect those priorities when presenting proposed programme budgets.

126. The Ministers expressed concern about the budget cuts proposed for the biennium 2014-2015 that could have a negative impact on the implementation of mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies, particularly in the development pillar, as well as the interpretation that the proposed cuts were made at the request of Member States through the budget outline resolution (67/248). The Ministers also expressed serious concern that changes were being introduced in the budget methodology and format without prior consideration and approval by the General Assembly.

127. The Ministers reiterated that there was a need to strike a balance in reflecting the agreed priorities of the Organization in the allocation of resources under the United Nations regular budget, which is persistently to the detriment of the development activities. In this context, the Ministers expressed concern that the share of the regular budget allocated to special political missions has continuously increased, while the share of resources allocated to development activities has stagnated. They further reaffirmed that the Secretariat must strictly implement General Assembly mandates without exceptions and/or delays.

128. In this context, the Ministers stressed that the strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential in responding to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. They recognized that the United Nations needs to improve its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of its programmes in the social and economic development field. In this regard, they urged the Secretary-General to further strengthen the development pillar of the whole Organization, including its Development Account.

129. The Ministers expressed their concern over the growing imbalance between assessed and voluntary contributions in the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015. The Ministers stressed that extrabudgetary resources should not replace regular and predictable funds from assessed contributions for the core activities of the Organization. It is equally important that resources from voluntary and extrabudgetary contributions be used to support and not reorient priorities agreed by Member States and be used strictly in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the Organization. The Ministers called for greater transparency, accountability and oversight by Member States over voluntary and extrabudgetary resources.

130. The Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring that the Secretariat meets the highest standards of accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical conduct.

The Ministers therefore urged the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to fully implement General Assembly resolutions [64/259](#), [66/257](#) and [67/253](#).

131. The Ministers expressed concern about the inadequate share of the developing countries in the United Nations system of procurement. They emphasized that United Nations procurement should be carried out on as wide a geographical basis as possible, with preferential treatment for the developing countries. They further underlined that the United Nations supplier roster should be representative of the membership of the Organization and underscored the need to implement concrete measures to ensure greater market access by businesses from developing countries in United Nations procurement.

132. The Ministers reiterated the need to increase the representation of developing countries and the representation of women from developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, and to improve geographic distribution in the Secretariat and transparency in the recruitment process.

133. The Ministers recalled the decision of the Heads of State and Government at the Second South Summit, held in Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005, to work to ensure that programmes and policies designed in the context of globalization fully respect the principles and purposes of the Charter and international law, particularly as they relate to equality among States, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and to stress that those principles and purposes inspire their full commitment to multilateralism and the search for a more just and equitable international economic system that offers opportunities to raise the standard of living of their peoples.

134. The Ministers also recalled the decision of the Heads of State and Government at the Second South Summit to work towards the realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affects their social and economic development, and the decision to call upon the international community to take all necessary measures to bring an end to the continuation of foreign occupation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law.

135. The Ministers reiterated their call for the immediate and full withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining Lebanese occupied land. They reaffirmed their support for a Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#) and [1850 \(2008\)](#) and the principle of land for peace. In this context, they also reaffirmed their support for the Arab Peace Initiative endorsed by the Arab Summit Conference since March 2002.

136. The Ministers stressed the need for the early realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and the independence of their State of Palestine to allow for their stability, prosperity and development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to which all peoples are entitled. The Ministers expressed support for the efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve independence and welcomed in this regard the submission of the State of Palestine's application on 23 September 2011 for full membership in the United

Nations, and noted the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 67/19, which accorded to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations. The Ministers continued to support the admission process of the State of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible.

137. The Ministers condemned the ongoing Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the illegal actions by the occupying Power that continue to cause civilian casualties, socioeconomic and humanitarian hardship and destruction of Palestinian properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands, and to undermine the contiguity, unity and integrity of the Territory.

138. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip, as a result of illegal Israeli practices, including the construction of settlements and the wall and the imposition of a blockade and hundreds of checkpoints. They called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately all illegal measures impairing the Palestinian economy and development, including, in particular, the inhumane and illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including commercial trade throughout, into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to make reparation for all damages caused to Palestinian properties, institutions and infrastructure. They reiterated their call upon the international community to continue providing much-needed developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip.

139. The Ministers reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

140. The Ministers reaffirmed the need for the Government of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and the objectives of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to “the question of the Malvinas Islands”, which seriously damages the economic capacities of the Argentine Republic and the need for both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the Assembly.

141. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to find a peaceful solution to the sovereignty issues facing developing countries, including, among others, the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised from the territory of Mauritius in violation of international law and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. Failure to resolve these decolonization and sovereignty issues would seriously damage and undermine the development and economic capacities and prospects of developing countries.

142. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterated their support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and also as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. The Ministers reiterated the Group's position that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirmed that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavour of developing countries based on the principle of solidarity and premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations, and as such South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. In this context, the Ministers stressed that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. As such, South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement, as envisioned by the Second South Summit.

143. The Ministers welcomed the convening of a high-level panel of eminent personalities of the South in Natadola, Fiji, from 7 to 9 May 2013, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the Second South Summit. They welcomed the panel's conclusions and recommendations on the future landscape of South-South cooperation as an important contribution to the further development of the Development Platform for the South. Ministers reiterated the framework and principles of South-South cooperation first endorsed at their thirty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2008, which the panel used as a basis for their discussions.

144. The Ministers stressed that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly is the central multilateral policymaking body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and for providing overall guidance on future directions. The Ministers urged all partners interested in supporting South-South cooperation to be guided by the principles and objectives for such cooperation established in such internationally agreed documents as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [33/134](#) of 19 December 1978, and the Nairobi outcome document, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/222](#), as well as other relevant Assembly resolutions. The Ministers therefore reiterated the Group's position that any policy debate outside the United Nations system should be guided by the above-mentioned agreed frameworks as well as the Yamoussoukro Consensus on South-South cooperation. Ministers also recommended dedicated structures and resources for South-South cooperation and regular reporting on related activities across the United Nations system.

145. The Ministers recalled the decision of the High-level Committee in 2012 to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. In this context, the Ministers considered that the

renaming of the Unit was a step forward in supporting South-South cooperation, and recommended the development of collaborative arrangements between the funds and programmes and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, including with a clear division of tasks and roles, as well as clear lines of reporting and accountability. The Office requires further strengthening, including through the provision of additional resources for its coordinating activities. In this context, the Ministers looked forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on measures to strengthen the Office, requested by the High-level Committee in its decision 17/1, including through the revision of the governance structure, secretariat support and financial assistance, which is of vital importance, so as to ensure more efficient and effective work procedures for the Committee and better delineation of responsibilities and interaction among all stakeholders. The Ministers also recommended that the Office be enabled to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in keeping with its status as a separate entity within the United Nations for global coordination and promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a United Nations system-wide basis, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions. The Ministers stressed that the Office is the articulator of South-South cooperation in the United Nations system and that UNDP should not duplicate, overlap or undertake the system-wide functions and responsibilities of the Office. In this context, the Ministers invited the Office to develop its own strategic framework for 2014-2017 in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly, consistent with the principles, priorities and objectives set by Member States in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi outcome document and other relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summit outcomes, taking into consideration the outcome of the review of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system (A/66/717), the evolving post-2015 United Nations agenda discussions, the Secretary-General's operational guidelines on support to South-South cooperation, and other entities' strategic plans.

146. The Ministers reiterated General Assembly resolution 60/212, in which it designated the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation. To this end, the Ministers supported efforts to upgrade the Fund into a fully functioning voluntary trust fund and to expand the core resources of the G-77 Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summit decisions.

147. The Ministers invited the member States of the Group of 77 to come forward with an offer to host the thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on South-South Cooperation in 2014. They also invited Member States to host sectoral meetings in various fields of cooperation, including South-South forums for parliamentarians, mayors, youth, media and civil society and other thematic meetings as envisaged in the Doha Plan of Action adopted by the Second South Summit. The Ministers invited the Chair of the Group of 77 to continue his consultations with Member States for the hosting of the Third South Summit, to be held on a convenient date.

148. The Ministers approved the report of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund and endorsed its

recommendations. The Ministers commended the Chair of the Trust Fund for his continued commitment and expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved by the Trust Fund. In view of the substantial decrease in the interest earnings of the Trust Fund caused by the current world financial situation, as reported by the Chair of the Trust Fund, the Ministers appealed to every Member State to make a significant contribution to the Trust Fund on the occasion of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held in New York on 11 November 2013.

149. The Ministers approved the financial statement of the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries Account of the Group of 77, as presented by the Chair of the Group of 77, and urged those Member States that had not yet done so to make special efforts to pay their outstanding contributions.

150. The Ministers welcomed the admission of the Republic of Kiribati as a member of the Group of 77.
