



GROUP
of
SEVENTY-SEVEN
at the United Nations

*Press
Release*

TWELFTH SESSION OF IFCC IN YAMOOUSSOUKRO: South-South Cooperation Tops Agenda

UNITED NATIONS (5 June 2008) - The Twelfth Session of the intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFC-XII) will take place in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, from 10 to 13 June 2008.

The IFCC-XII in Yamoussoukro will be an occasion for Ministers and high-level officials from the developing countries to review recent progress and concrete actions undertaken in the field of South-South cooperation in the context of the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the Second South Summit held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 16 June 2005.

At the Second South Summit of the Group of 77, the leaders of the developing world decided to launch an initiative to elaborate a development platform for the Group that would provide a framework of development options to support the participation and integration of developing countries into the global economy. The Ministers will also consider the outcome of the G-77 Panel of Eminent Personalities on the Development Platform for the South that met in St. John's (Antigua and Barbuda) on 29-30 April 2008.

The G-77 high-level panel carried out a comprehensive review of the existing trends in South-South cooperation and made recommendations for future action on how it could be further strengthened and consolidated, especially in preparation of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in 2009.

The ongoing consultative process in preparation for the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation to be convened in the first half of 2009, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/209, will provide a timely opportunity for the Group of 77 in Yamoussoukro to make a substantive contribution to the preparatory process of the UN conference. In this context, an interactive Ministerial dialogue on the objectives and prospects of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation will take place at IFCC-XII.

The Ministers are expected to adopt guidelines to put into operation the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance established by the Second South Summit. The Doha Plan of Action adopted by the Second South Summit identified possibilities for cooperative action in a wide range of areas and made recommendations for joint projects and initiatives on South-South cooperation.

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The IFCC was established in 1981 by the Group of 77 as a high-level follow-up review mechanism of South-South cooperation. The membership of the IFCC is open to the participation of all 130 Member States of the Group of 77. To date, eleven sessions of IFCC have been held: IFCC-I in Manila, Philippines (23-28 August 1982); IFCC-II in Tunis, Tunisia (5-10 September 1983); IFCC-III in Cartagena, Colombia (3-10 September 1984); IFCC-IV in Jakarta, Indonesia (19-23 August 1985); IFCC-V in Cairo, Egypt (18-23 August 1986); IFCC-VI in Havana, Cuba (7-12 September 1987); IFCC-VII in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (31 July-5 August 1989); IFCC-VIII in Panama City, Panama (30 August-4 September 1993); IFCC-IX in Manila, Philippines (9-12 February 1996); IFCC-X in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran (18-23 August 2001); and IFCC-XII in Havana, Cuba (21-23 March 2005).

With 130 members, including China, the Group of 77 constitutes the largest intergovernmental organization of the South. Since its establishment in June 1964, the G-77 has proved its effectiveness as a body advancing the concerns and interests of developing countries. As the main voice of the South on economic and social issues in the UN system, the Group initiated since its First Ministerial Meeting in Algiers in October 1967 an economic platform for a more equitable and democratic international global order. The G-77 has enhanced the negotiating capacity of the South and played a pivotal role in the development of an international agenda which takes account of the primary interests of the developing world. Currently Antigua and Barbuda is the Chair country of the Group of 77 for the year 2008.

For more information, please visit www.g77.org.

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