



G R O U P
of
SEVENTY-SEVEN
 at the United Nations

*Press
 Release*

G-77 High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation Agree to Development Platform for the South

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE (11 June 2008) - The Ministers and high-level officials who participated in the interactive dialogue on South-South cooperation during the Twelfth Session of the intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-XII) being held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, from 10 to 13 June 2008, agreed that the Development Platform for the South is an essential and necessary tool for policy-making and action by the Member States of the Group of 77 in the context of the new realities and emerging challenges facing the developing countries.

It was recalled that the initiative for the elaboration of a Platform for the South was made at the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 held in Doha, Qatar, from 12 to 16 June 2005. The Heads of State and Government requested the preparation of a "platform for the South to provide a framework of development options to support the participation and integration of developing countries into the global economy and the globalization process." A Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South was formed by the Chair of G-77 to elaborate the Platform, a process concluded in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda on 29-30 April 2008 under the auspices of the Chair of G-77, The Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, who addressed the IFCC at the opening ceremony on 10 June 2008 and urged delegates to adopt the Platform.

The Chair of G-77 stated that the Platform "should be used as an instrument for international cooperation, including South-South cooperation; asserting pressure on donor countries to honor their ODA commitments rather than using South-South cooperation to supplement North-South flows, and helping to reshape the international economic architecture."

Delegations stated that for all the shortcomings and setbacks, the record of South-South cooperation revealed many positive elements. They pointed out that there has been an important learning process concerning the management of economic relations among developing countries and about the potential, as the problems, inherent in such relations.

In addition, deliberate efforts have been continuing in all three regions of the developing world to strengthen and extend mechanisms for economic integration and cooperation. All of these developments reflected the notion that South-South cooperation can attain a momentum of its own, notwithstanding links that it might have to the North-South process. It was pointed out that as efforts proceed to achieve more effective North-South relationships, so will there remain a

./.

Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77
 Room S-3953 United Nations Secretariat New York, NY 10017, USA
 Phone: (212) 963-3816 Fax: (212) 963-3515 Email: g77off@unmail.org
 Website: <http://www.g77.org>

continuing need for direct action to strengthen South-South cooperation at the inter-regional, regional and sub-regional level themselves.

Delegations also referred to the global food crisis facing developing countries and stressed the urgent need to address its root causes. In his welcoming inaugural address, His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, called for the creation of an investment bank for the South and a food stabilization fund to fight world poverty, and added that the G-77 itself should also move forward with the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance as agreed during the Second South Summit in 2005.

Addressing the preparations for the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in the first half of 2009 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Ministers and high-level officials were of the view that it should be held at the "highest level possible" with the participation of heads of State and Government.

It was argued that South-South cooperation constitutes a necessary dimension of any sub-regional, regional and global strategy of development and that strengthening of South-South linkages through the use of deliberate policies and instruments by developing countries cannot be viewed in isolation from the entire system of international economic relations. It was pointed out that the efforts of developing countries to enhance these linkages must continue to command the full support of the United Nations system given the basic thrust of its activities pertaining to the promotion of development and to international cooperation in this field.

It was further observed that perceptions of the value of South-South cooperation are useful. Commitments and declarations of intent are a step forward. But it is action alone which will provide the measurable results which in the ultimate analysis are the test of success. Participants agreed that the IFCC-XII meeting in Yamoussoukro provided an ideal opportunity not only to boldly face the facts and reality of South-South cooperation as it exists presently, but to chart a course of action which would provide renewed impetus to these relationships.

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

Or contact:
Mr. Mourad Ahmia
Executive Secretary of the Groupe des 77
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY, 10017
Email: g77off@unmail.org
Fax: (212) 963 3515
Tel: (212) 963 4777