



**GROUP**  
of  
**SEVENTY-SEVEN**  
at the United Nations

*Press  
Release*

## **G-77 High-level Conference Concludes Successfully in Yamoussoukro**

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE (13 June 2008) – The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Group of 77, held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire from 10 to 13 June, concluded with the launching of the Development Platform for the South and the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

In closing remarks, Ambassador John W. Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, was quoted saying on behalf of The Honourable W. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda and Chair of the Group of 77, that the Development Platform for the South is “a very important framework for policy decisions and actions that will guide our countries in their efforts of achieving economic development. I would like to reiterate that we need to view the Development Platform for the South as a self-sustaining process requiring continuous updating and refinement in order to effectively deal with contemporary challenges faced by our countries. The Development Platform for the South is a valuable tool for strengthening South-South Cooperation by providing new approaches to actions of the South in the international economic area.”

The Chair of the G-77 also welcomed the launch of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance as a positive achievement of the Conference in Yamoussoukro and invited Member States to the signing ceremony which is expected to be held next September in New York on the occasion of the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77. The Fund was established by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 held in Doha, Qatar, on 12-16 June 2005, in order to assist the countries of the South in their development efforts and address the problems of hunger, poverty and natural disasters.

During the four-day Conference, Ministers and senior officials participated in a frank and wide-ranging debate that touched on nearly all aspects of South-South cooperation. In the debate many proposals were made for the promotion of South-South cooperation. It was noted that the countries of the South are increasingly involved with each other in innovative forms, especially on concrete projects at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. Among the initiatives announced at the Conference was the call by the host country's President, His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo, to establish an investment bank for Africa as well as a food price stabilization fund. An expert group meeting will be convened in the nearest future in order to examine both initiatives and to formulate appropriate follow-up action.

Another major issue that was considered was the forthcoming High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in the first half 2009 - which should be held at the “highest political level” - and its prospects in promoting international support for South-South cooperation, including identification of methods to maximize the role of the U.N. system and its machinery in promoting such cooperation.

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During its closing meeting, which was attended by His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the participants adopted a motion of thanks and solidarity for the excellent arrangements made for the hosting of the Conference and the warm welcome given to them, conveying their "full solidarity with the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire towards bringing peace, prosperity and development."

At its closing ceremony, the Chair of the Group of 77 presented appreciation awards to the host country's President, His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, and to the Governor of the District of Yamoussoukro, His Excellency Mr. Apollinaire N'Dri, for generously providing a venue for the Conference and for the outstanding organization and hospitality extended to the participants. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in turn presented appreciation awards to Mr. Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77, as well as to Mr. Zakaria R. Fellah, Coordinator of the National Organizing Committee, in recognition of their outstanding leadership for the successful outcome of the Conference.

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](http://www.g77.org).

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