



# Journal of the Group of 77



Volume 18/1

Published since September 1982 by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

Spring 2005

## JAMAICA IDENTIFIES G77 PRIORITIES FOR 2005

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS) - Addressing the Group of 77, Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade K.D. Knight told delegates that the broadening dimensions of globalisation are increasing the complexities of the challenges facing the world's developing nations.

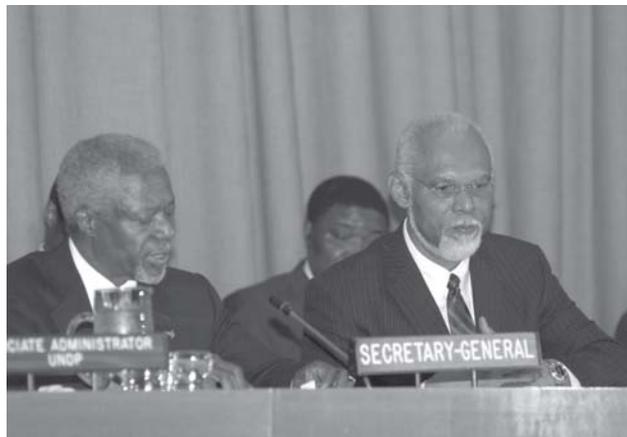
Speaking at a ceremony at UN headquarters in New York where Jamaica was formally installed as the new chairman of the G-77 for 2005, the minister said: "We cannot afford to be left behind and must exert all efforts to share in the benefits of global economic expansion."

He said that developing

nations need fairer rules and arrangements—from market access to technology issues and financial flows—that would provide better opportunities to the world's poorer countries.

Poverty, hunger and disease are the common enemies of mankind, he said. "They must be addressed by the global community within the framework of international cooperation and through the commitment of the necessary resources to ensure their elimination."

As the new chairman of the G77, Jamaica pledged to advance the following priorities for 2005:



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (left), delivers remarks at handing over ceremony of the Chairmanship of the of 77 on 25 January 2005. Presiding is K.D. Knight, Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

[Continued on page 2](#)

### In this issue:

QATAR, STRESSING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, WILL HOST JUNE SUMMIT .....	3
SEPTEMBER SUMMIT SHOULD BOOST GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, SAYS ANNAN .....	4
G77 QUESTIONS CONCEPTUAL UNDERPINNINGS OF REPORT BY HIGH LEVEL PANEL .....	5
MDGs ACHIEVABLE THROUGH INTENSIFIED COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH .....	6
IMPLEMENTATION OF MDGs NEED BOOST IN RESOURCES .....	8
G77 TO PRESENT AWARD FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION .....	9
G77 SEES SYNERGY BETWEEN MDGs AND SOCIAL SUMMIT .....	10
SOUTH SUMMIT TO FINALIZE COMMON POSITION ON IMPLEMENTING MDGs .....	11
DIRECTORY OF G-77 CHAPTERS .....	12

Founded in September 1982



The *JOURNAL OF THE GROUP OF 77* is published at the United Nations Headquarters by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York in collaboration with Inter Press Service (IPS). Contributions to the *Journal* are welcome and should be addressed to the Managing Editor of the *Journal*: Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77, U.N. Headquarters, Secretariat building, Room S-3953, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

---

**Publisher:**

Ambassador Stafford O. Neil  
Chairman of the Group of 77, New York

**Editor in Chief:**

Mourad Ahmia  
Executive Secretary of the Group of 77

---

**Editor:**

Thalif Deen  
Inter Press Service

**Assistant Editor:**

Arturo Lozano

**Telephone:**

(212)963-3816  
(212)963-0192

**Fax:**

(212)963-3515  
(212)963-1753

**E-Mail:**

[g77off@unmail.org](mailto:g77off@unmail.org)

---

The Journal of the Group of 77 is also available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.g77.org>

**(a) Increasing the Flow of Resources to Developing countries**

“Many decisions have been taken over the past few years; at Copenhagen, the Millennium Summit, Johannesburg, Monterrey, all of which held out the promise of significant flows of financial and other resources to developing countries. Although taken within the consensus framework of a partnership for development, what was agreed has not been fulfilled,” the minister said.

“We therefore feel the need to renew the focus on implementation and expect that especially within the context of the Five-year Review of Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the forthcoming 60th Session, serious decisions will be taken not only on the mobilisation of new resources but on the creation of monitoring and implementing mechanisms to advance this objective”.

“We should not think solely in terms of traditional sources such as ODA and private investment but should continue to explore new and innovative sources which should be additional and complementary to these traditional financial flows. We also should seek ways to increase the effectiveness of technical assistance, especially through the reduction of transaction and administrative costs. We also must express concern at the increasing range of conditionalities imposed on development assistance, especially from certain bilateral donors, which has now crept into the programmes of multilateral financial institutions”.

**(b) Improvements in global governance**

“In the interest of developing countries, it is also imperative that we address systemic inequities in the international economic system to redress the balance that has for so long worked against the interests of the developing world. Global policy making in relation to finance, trade and technology is firmly within the control of the dominant powers in the North”.

“In light of the current imbalances and disequilibria leading to increasing disparities between rich and poor, there is need for corrective measures. We have to insist on having a greater voice and increased participation in global policy-making. There is also need for better management of the global economy, so essential during this era of globalization, and for better arrangements within the multilateral institutions for co-ordination and for the formulation of policy guidelines to ensure coherence”.

“For all of this, there is no better place than the United Nations. Global policy co-operation and macro-economic management would help to stabilize the system and avoid the recurrence of crisis. As it now stands fluctuations in financial flows, instability in currency markets and the volatility in commodity prices can generate a crisis having a global impact. It is therefore in the interests of all to promote better arrangements for global economic management and we also believe that we should seek to empower the Economic and Social Council to fulfill this role”.

**(c) Formulation of a Development Agenda**

“We believe it is time to formulate a common agenda for the Group which will define the kind of world economic order we should promote in this era of globalization. The elaboration of such a platform would serve the purpose of identifying in a coherent structure what are the policies and institutional arrangements which would cater to our economic interests”.

“Such a platform would also serve to strengthen the bonds within our membership and maintain the cohesion which is critical to our continued vitality and effectiveness. Solidarity between us in this Group must always be maintained and during the Jamaica chairmanship it will be our endeavour to increase its strength”.

**(d) Enhancing South/South Co-operation**

“We will be holding the Second South Summit which the Government of Qatar has graciously offered to host in June. It will review the Havana Programme of Action to determine what additional measures or initiatives should be adopted to give further impetus to strengthening cooperation between the nations of the South”.

“While the links have been expanding, there is need for increased momentum, particularly in trade and investment relations. Contacts between counterpart institutions and business entities have to be actively encouraged and promoted. Governments should be seen as being integral in this process”.



**K.D. Knight, Jamaica’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, holding gavel handed over by Qatar’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud (right). Secretary-General Kofi Annan is at left.**

**(e) Disaster Management and Relief**

“The disasters following the recent earthquake and tsunami which devastated islands and coastal states in the Indian ocean have dramatically demonstrated how vulnerable states can be overwhelmed by a sudden calamity. Apart from the grief and sorrow occasioned by the loss of life, the

economic loss from the destruction of infrastructure and the means of livelihood are an enormous setback for those affected, especially when they are all developing countries”.

“In our own Caribbean we live under the constant threat of hurricanes and recurring cycles of destruction and recovery. Many in our Group have to also contend with potential disastrous consequences from climate change. Disaster Prevention and management and recovery efforts should now be recognized as being of such dimensions as to require global solutions. We believe that new mechanisms should be explored particularly to improve prevention and to cope with relief and reconstruction efforts”.

The minister also said that the G77 will continue to work constructively with partners in the North to advance development co-operation in the broadest sense and especially to reduce poverty and its attendant maladies.

“Our co-operation must reflect a partnership which preserves the rights and interests of all parties. The terms on which co-operation is conducted should not endanger sovereign rights or restrict the development options available to developing countries,” he added.

## **QATAR, STRESSING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, WILL HOST JUNE SUMMIT**

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 25 (G77/IPS)—Formally handing over the G77 chairmanship to Jamaica, Qatar’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud said his country will have the honour of hosting the Second South Summit in Doha in June this year.

“The importance of South-South cooperation in promoting the development of developing countries cannot be overstated,” he told delegates.

As Qatar hands over the mantle of chairmanship, the challenges that the world faces remain as pressing as ever, the minister said.

“They are the challenges of building a new development consensus for the next decades that delicately balances old and new security concerns and the quest to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development in all our countries, while emphasizing that peace and security can not be sustainable unless they are based on a foundation of development and justice,” he added.

The minister said that during Qatar’s chairmanship in 2004, it realised the potential of trade to become a major source

of financing for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed upon development goals.

The Group emphasized, during all negotiations, the need for a multilateral trading system that is truly open, equitable, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory, and development-oriented.

Also, as a follow-up to the Doha Round last year, he said, an understanding was reached in Geneva with respect to international subsidies, cotton, and trade facilitations, which is a step in the right direction.

The Group continued to emphasise the need to develop the capacity of developing countries to enable them to effectively participate in trade negotiations and to safeguard their interests.

Moreover, the Group also continued to articulate the need for measures to be taken to facilitate the accession of those countries that have applied for membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in order to make the whole trading system a pro-development regime.

“We believe that the many dialogues that we have

**Continued on page 4**

engaged in, last year, have successfully launched the search for a global consensus on these issues,” he said.

The report of the ‘High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change’ and the report on the Millennium Projects are already before the United Nations.

“In the coming months, while preparing for the 2005 high-level event, we should participate actively in enriching these two historic contributions and should leave our imprint on them. We should prepare our perspective on these issues and insist that they are part of the main contributions to the event,” the minister added.

The importance of South-South Corporation in promoting the development of developing countries can not be

over-emphasized.

Acknowledging the importance of this corporation since the beginning, he said, Qatar hosted the High Level Forum on Trade and Investment for the countries of the South in Doha in December 2004. Qatar will have the honor of hosting the Second South Summit to be convened in Doha in June 2005.

“In the next few months, we will, in close cooperation with you and with the chairmanship, seek the optimum means to exploit this event to promote the cause of the developing countries in their quest to hold important multi-lateral negotiations on the future of the world economy and collective security,” the minister said.

## SEPTEMBER SUMMIT SHOULD BOOST GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, SAYS ANNAN

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS)— Addressing the Group of 77, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told delegates that the upcoming summit meeting of world leaders in September this year offers a historic opportunity to make progress in advancing the global development agenda.

“We are at a defining moment in the history of the United Nations. We must seize the occasion to strengthen multilateralism, and to take decisive steps towards the vision of a world free from fear and want, articulated in the Millennium Declaration,” he added.

Annan said the summit— which will review the progress made in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)— will also help find ways to revitalise the United Nations system, equipping it better to deal with the challenges the world body faces in the 21st century. In March, he said, he will propose an agenda, in his own report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

“Fortunately, it is now clearer than ever what those steps are, thanks to the report of the ‘Millennium Project, Investing in Development’: a practical plan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which was published in January. It shows clearly that, with political will on all sides, we have the practical means to ensure that every country achieves the Goals. I’m delighted that your Group has welcomed the report so warmly”.

Some of the key decisions can be taken in September,

when Heads of State and Government meet to review the world’s progress in implementing the Millennium Declaration, he added.

Annan said the upcoming summit will also be called on to meet new threats and challenges in the realm of peace and security.

For the truth is that prosperity and security are interdependent - a point made strongly in the report of ‘the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change’, published in December.

“This year offers us an opportunity to make decisive progress on both the development and the security agendas. Your Group will have a key role to play in ensuring that the former receives due attention,” Annan said.

For instance, developing countries have a vital role to play in ensuring that the opportunity to make real progress in the Doha round of trade negotiations is

seized.

“You also need, not only to remind donor countries of the commitments they have made to increase their official development assistance (ODA), but also to promote urgent consideration of new ideas on how to raise resources for development, such as the International Finance Facility, and the initiative on Hunger and Poverty sponsored by Brazil, France, Chile and Spain,” he said.

“This year can be decisive because, if we don’t take the right steps now, all hope of reaching the goals by 2015 will soon vanish,” he warned.



Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivers remarks at handing over ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 at UN Headquarters in New York.

# G77 QUESTIONS CONCEPTUAL UNDERPINNINGS OF REPORT BY HIGH LEVEL PANEL

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS)— Ambassador Stafford Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of 77, told the General Assembly that there is a need for renewed focus on development cooperation.

While the G77 and China welcomes the report of 'the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change', the Group feels that it has not adequately analysed the development-related issues, he said.

"We question the conceptual underpinnings of the Report which sees development in the context of addressing prevention of terrorism and organised crime," he told delegates.

"This rather narrow and restricted approach diminishes the importance of an issue which in itself represents one of the major challenges of our time and which requires analysis of the broader and systemic aspects of global economic relations," he added.

Furthermore, location of development issues within the confines of security threats and prevention strategies would lead to an undesirable alteration in the balance of responsibilities between the various organs of the system.

He said it would also contribute to increased concentration of power in the hands of the Security Council and further undermine the role of the Economic and Social Council.

Still the Group of 77 and China views the report as a useful contribution to assessing current challenges to international peace and security and actions required to enable the international community to deal with these challenges, Ambassador Neil added.

"We acknowledge the inter-connectedness of the threats and challenges and mutual vulnerability of Member States. We believe that these challenges cannot be met by any State acting alone and thus require international cooperative action".

For the G77 and China, development has to be considered in a comprehensive manner, in the context of a principal concern with human dignity and human welfare.

"We are therefore troubled that development is examined in the Report in such a selective manner, focussing only in terms of poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation and only insofar as they affect or influence international peace and security," he added.

The Group, however, supports the recommendations on the need for states to commit themselves to the goals of eradicating poverty; reaching the 0.7 percent target of official development assistance (ODA); concluding the Doha round of trade negotiations by 2006; providing greater debt relief and longer rescheduling, improving market access; devoting more resources to the fight against HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases; improving health facilities; and stemming environmental degradation.

"What concerns us most is that the recommendations do not prescribe specific actions and timeframes to move the process toward implementation. They amount to a simple reiteration of what has been agreed in the past. We would have preferred to have seen recommendations which are more concrete and substantive in nature," he added.

"We are of the view that the focus should be on implementation and it is from this perspective that we believe that there was a missed opportunity to deal more effectively with the development issues," the G77 chairman said.

The Group would also welcome concrete recommendations, on such matters as desertification and also on natural disasters, especially since recent events have dramatically demonstrated the threat and destabilising effect of such phenomena.

Turning now to the issues of governance, the Panel Report states that existing global economic and social governance structures are woefully inadequate for the challenges ahead.

"This is a powerful conclusion, but surprisingly, no serious recommendations were made to address the issue. No serious attention was given to an increased role for the ECOSOC. Indeed we are perturbed by the Panels conclusions in paragraph 274. This is disappointing for the Group of 77 and China which attaches importance to ECOSOC fulfilling its role in accordance with its mandate under the Charter," he added.

"We therefore would not support any proposal to weaken the ECOSOC and its role in giving prominence to economic and social issues within the UN. The role of ECOSOC, as envisaged in the Charter, should be strengthened, not reduced to one of administrative coordination and to research and analysis of the economic and social threats to peace and security".

"The premise of the analysis of the link between security and development should not, in our view, be used as a basis to strengthen the role of the Security Council vis-à-vis the other Principal Organs of the UN," he said.

By way of general observations, he said, the Report does not adequately address many issues of concern to the South, including the systemic inequities which restrict the flow of benefits from the process of globalisation and which limit the participation of developing countries in trade, monetary and financial institutions.

"We need more specific institutional prescriptions which envisage a role for the UN in decision-making in global economic policies," he added.

Some of these systemic inequities are addressed in a more comprehensive manner in the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation entitled: 'A Fair Globalisation: Creating opportunities for All'.

"We would urge the Secretary General to take its recommendations into account in the preparation of his report for the High Level Plenary Meeting," Ambassador Neil said.

## MDGs ACHIEVABLE THROUGH INTENSIFIED COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS) — Speaking on the “Report of the Millennium Project” authored by a team of experts led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, Ambassador Stafford O. Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica and Chairman of the Group of 77, told delegates that the study provides a rich source of material on development issues as well as some creative practical solutions for consideration.

He said the report concludes that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are achievable within the 2015 time frame “through a more intensified programme of economic cooperation in the global partnership” between developing and developed nations.

Speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, Ambassador Neil said the report’s findings on the limited progress in several critical areas over the past 5 years strongly supports the imperative of moving more rapidly to make up lost ground in order to reach the targets over the next 10 years.

“Reaching that destination will not be easy but it can be done. The G-77 and China draws inspiration from the report’s optimism and its confident forecast,” he added.

Ambassador Neil also said the report makes a convincing case for the mobilisation of substantial resources for meeting the targets.

The calculations show clearly that domestic resources in the developing countries— even in the context of rising government expenditures— will fall far short of the actual requirements for the MDGs.

He said there will be a significant financing gap estimated at \$73 billion in 2006 rising to \$135 billion by 2015. This means that global official development assistance (ODA) would need to roughly double the existing levels for 2006, increasing to upwards of \$195 billion by 2015.

“The costings are carefully worked out and we believe they represent the minimum requirements for the task. We should emphasise, as the report does, that overall ODA needs are much higher since the estimates cover only the resources needed to achieve the MDGs”.

The development challenge facing the developing countries, he noted, is much larger. The development assistance priorities as agreed at other Global Summits and Conferences must also remain in focus.

“We mention in particular the Almaty Programme, the Mauritius Programme, the Brussels Programme for the Least Developed Countries, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,” he added.

“We note that financing requirements for the MDGs

could be met from an overall percentage contribution of 0.44% of donor countries GNI in 2006 rising to 0.54 in 2015,” he said.

But he expressed concern about some implications of this mini-step approach and emphasised that this approach should not in any way compromise the established target of 0.7, and the need for the implementation of the commitments to reach that target required in the context of overall development.

With regard to issues of good governance, he said, developing countries accept and are committed to ensure accountability, transparency and the elimination of corrupt practices in the implementation of development programmes.

In the spirit of global partnership, it is the expectation of developing countries that donors will also adhere to good governance in implementing commitments they have made, in respecting national sovereignty and in refraining from policies and practices which operate to the detriment of developing countries.

On the issue of governance at the international level— which in the Millennium Declaration was linked to governance at national level— the report recognises the inadequacies of global economic management and decision-making and rightly concludes that major challenges of global policy co-operation need to be addressed in 2005.

As the G-77 and China have stated on many occasions, the United Nations, in particular the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has a responsibility for coordination and monitoring of global commitments.

The challenge, he pointed out, is to design machinery to enable the UN system to provide effective co-ordination and policy coherence and to monitor implementation.

He said the G77 also gives broad support to the proposals for a number of “Quick Win” programmes in the report, which are practical measures helping to lift living standards and stimulate economic growth.

He said the report has made proposals on trade which have an important development orientation beyond issues of market access.

The G-77 and China considers that liberalised trade regime should provide for fair trade with rules to accommodate the interests of developing countries including special and differential treatment and compensating adjustments in development assistance for loss of preferences.

“We support the need for special attention to the implementation of the Doha Work Programme, including the work on the small and vulnerable economies. We also welcome the attention given to the need to improve supply

---

*It is the expectation of developing countries that donors will also adhere to good governance in implementing commitments they have made, in respecting national sovereignty and in refraining from policies and practices which operate to the detriment of developing countries.*

---

side capabilities to increase productive capacity and export competitiveness in developing countries”.

He said the Group of 77 and China is pleased that the report has brought into sharp focus the inherent inconsistency in the treatment of the external debt crisis.

The report reaffirms that the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative has not yielded the desired results. It points to a situation where creditors provide development assistance with one hand and withdraws it in debt servicing.

Net negative transfers of over \$300 billion defeats the purpose of development co-operation and partnership. It is also important that greater attention be given to the impact of public sector debt on the absorptive capacity of developing countries to utilise development assistance and on their capacity to mobilise resources on the private capital market, he added.

“In our view, these inconsistencies and constraints call for deeper analysis and discussion within the UN, more especially in ECOSOC. If the lingering external debt crisis is to be resolved, we must bring a new attitude and an integrated approach to address the effects of debt servicing on indebted low and middle income countries”, he said.

Ambassador Neil also welcomed the recommendation for a global effort to build scientific and technological capacities to help to drive economic development and to forge solutions to scientific challenges facing developing countries.

These initiatives would be applicable to all sectors and specially important for challenges in climate change and national disaster prevention and mitigation.

Reform of the TRIPs Agreement might also be necessary to allow it to facilitate development and the objectives of the MDGs. These issues can be further elaborated in the World Summit on Information Technology to be held in Tunis in November.

The report also has an ambitious but necessary programme of practical things to be done if the MDGs are to be achieved within the time frames.

“The big problem the issue we have always wrestled with - is that of implementation or more accurately, the means for implementation,” he said. Commitments are made but, often, are not honoured.

He said it is over 35 years since the ODA target was set. There is still no machinery or process yet devised to secure implementation.

“We believe that part of the solution lies in the strengthening of the UN machinery for monitoring and follow-up. We could look to ECOSOC to fulfil this role,” he said.

Ambassador Neil was critical of political conditionalities that have been constraints to development.

But the report, he said, is not explicit in its position on

this.

The Group of 77 and China is opposed to conditionalities which restrict the policy options of developing countries.

“Developing countries need the policy space to select their own options in development policy. Political conditionalities should never be the price to be paid for development co-operation”.

“We therefore must express some concern at illustrative references which might be seen as supportive of the conditionality arrangements of some bilateral donors and International Financial Institutions,” he said.

That is why, he said, the G77 has some reservations on the identification of Fast Track countries for scaled up assistance.

“We support the ideas of quick win actions and fast track mechanisms but the selection criteria must be transparent and objective and devoid of political considerations. The over riding goal should be to ensure sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs”.

Further, the number of countries must be sufficiently large as to allow the programme to meet the overall targets.

He also expressed concern at the classification and selective listing of countries based on politically biased views about governance.

This is not acceptable to the Group of 77 and China. “Furthermore, we note that references are made to categories of countries not conforming to the established groupings within the UN setting”.

He said one omission in the report in the consideration of the shortfalls in achieving the MDGs is that of circumstances such as armed conflict and occupation as well as the negative impact of coercive measures and unilateral punitive sanctions against developing countries.

These measures promote impoverishment and impede implementation of the MDGs and other intergovernmentally agreed goals. The Group of 77 and China is opposed to these measures which are contrary to the principles of the Charter and the spirit of global partnership.

In conclusion, he said: “As we contemplate the issues before the High Level Plenary at the 60th Session, we must face squarely the need to take concrete and substantive decisions to promote development. We must consider the subject in its holistic substance and not simply within the confines of threats to peace or the realisation of the MDGs”.

“We should consider the whole interlocking fabric of international economic relations with a view to removing systemic inequities. The fact is that poverty and its attendant maladies are symptoms of underdevelopment and as such have to be overcome by development itself”, he concluded.

---

*Developing countries need the policy space to select their own options in development policy. Political conditionalities should never be the price to be paid for development co-operation.*

---

# IMPLEMENTATION OF MDGs NEED BOOST IN RESOURCES

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS) — The Group of 77 has warned that any serious effort to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other critical areas of development will require mobilisation of significant financial resources from donor nations, in addition to that which can be generated domestically.

At the informal consultation of the General Assembly on the two reports of the ‘High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change’ and the ‘Millennium Project 2005’, Ambassador Stafford Neil of Jamaica said that both reports recognise the importance of economic and social development and also establish the inextricable link with peace and security.

The leaders of the world, when they met in 2000 to establish the direction for the twenty-first century, recognised the primacy of the development challenge when, they established the Millennium Development Goals to urgently address the worst manifestations of underdevelopment.

The G-77 and China believe strongly that while the threats to peace and international security may have increased in recent years, the international community must focus on the fundamental underlying cause of current problems - the persistence of underdevelopment.

“As such, development has to be considered as a basic and fundamental issue in all its dimensions, not simply as an economic and social threat to peace and security,” said Ambassador Neil, speaking in his capacity as chairman of the Group of 77.

Such a narrow and restricted approach to development issues is untenable.

“The Millennium Project Report shows us with meticulous and detailed facts and figures that based on performance over the last five years, we will fail to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals by large margins. It follows that we are failing to address the broader issues of development,” he said. By 2015 the development gap would have widened further.

“In our view the Summit in September must not only recommit to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the required acceleration to meet the agreed deadline; it must also address the resource needs, the constraining systemic issues and the international governance requirements for the global partnership envisaged in the Millennium Summit, the Rio, Beijing, Copenhagen, Cairo,

Monterrey, Johannesburg Summits and in the Almaty, Brussels and Mauritius Programmes,” Ambassador Neil said.

The G77 therefore believes that the upcoming Summit should:

— Commit to reaching the 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) of developed countries on specific time frames within the 2015 period on the basis that the 0.7 percent represents an absolute minimum and that it is urgently required for all developing countries, including middle-income countries;

— Agree to an urgent comprehensive package to relieve developing countries of the burden of external debt. This would require inter alia, the cancellation of bilateral debt, relief from the interest payments on the debt to multilateral

institutions and the provision of future assistance in the form of grants to the more highly indebted countries. Implementation of existing commitments, especially to Africa, should proceed urgently ;

— Agree to transparency and accountability in the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other resources including resources from debt relief arrangements;

— Agree on the elimination of policy conditionalities in relation to the provision of development assistance;

— Agree to make improvements in the process and delivery mechanisms for assistance to increase aid effectiveness and reduce transaction costs;

— Agree to develop mechanisms, which do not impose additional burdens or conditionalities on developing countries, to encourage and promote private direct investment in developing countries. In the same vein, it will be crucial for developed countries to create measures to facilitate the promotion of Foreign Direct Investment to developing countries; and

— Agree to explore new and innovative sources of finance which can complement official flows and private direct investment and promote growth and development in recipient countries. They should not be regarded as substitutes to ODA, neither should they impose additional burdens on developing countries.

Additionally, the Summit should address or direct relevant bodies to formulate policies to eliminate systemic inequities which constrain economic growth in Developing Countries in all relevant areas such as:

— Trade. Trade policies, rules and modalities should

---

*The Summit in September must not only recommit to the attainment of the MDGs and the required acceleration to meet the agreed deadline; it must also address the resource needs, the constraining systemic issues and the international governance requirements for the global partnership envisaged in the Millennium Summit, the Rio, Beijing, Copenhagen, Cairo, Monterrey, Johannesburg Summits and in the Almaty, Brussels and Mauritius Programmes.*

---

**Continued on page 9**

have a development focus. The Summit should direct Trade Ministers meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005 to ensure that the development dimension is fully integrated in all aspects of the Doha Work Programme and that special priority be given to the Implementation Issues; to improved market access for all developing countries and to the application of special and differential treatment.

—Technology. Existing policies should be liberalised to ease access to technology and thus reduce the technology gap between developed and developing countries. The relaxation of protective rules and the transfer of environmentally sound technology on preferential terms should be encouraged by the Summit.

—Monetary and Financial Affairs. The Summit should call for a review of existing global monetary and financial arrangements and their impact on developing countries, including the risks from volatility in capital transactions, instability in exchange regimes and the dangers of instability and crisis arising from contagion. The Summit should call for reform of the global financial architecture to reduce the risks of financial crisis.

—Labour mobility. The global policies of liberalisation of capital, goods and services have not been complemented

by any policies or regime for the movement of labour, in particular semi and unskilled the other major factor of production and trade. As globalisation accentuates inequalities especially in employment opportunities, the need arises for addressing this neglected area in global economic relations. The Summit should direct attention to this issue.

— Development Policy. The Summit should explicitly acknowledge that there is no single sustainable model for development. Developing countries face a diverse range of economic conditions, constraints and opportunities. Development plans and policies should be determined through internal processes based on national priorities, including the right of states over their natural resources.

— The Environment. Development should proceed in a global environment in which it can be sustainable. There are major threats to sustainability. The international community has, in the Rio Declaration and Agenda XXI and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, agreed on several principles and actions which could facilitate sustainable development. The Summit should urge the early and full implementation of those commitments and the operationalisation of the Kyoto Protocol which recently entered into force.

## **G77 TO PRESENT AWARD FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

UNITED NATIONS, (G77/IPS) - The Group of 77, in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World (TWAS), will present the “G77 Award for Science, Technology and Innovation” to recognise and encourage contributions to scientific research and innovation leading to social and economic development in developing countries.

The award will be presented for the first time at the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 to be held in New York in September.

The purpose of the award is to recognise and honour distinguished individuals whose scientific and technical innovations have provided significant and sustainable solutions to some important economic and social problems in the Third World and have brought substantial benefits to the well-being of the people.

The award, which will be given every three years, will consist of a cash prize and a medal/or plaque on which major contributions of the award winner will be inscribed.

Candidates for the G77 Award must be: scientists, technologists and innovators, whose scientific and technological innovations have had a beneficial effect on developing nations. They must also be citizens of developing countries, working and living in these countries.

Nominations for the award are invited from scientists

and researchers from members of the G77, Science Academies, National Research Councils, Universities and Research Institutions in developing countries. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations for the first award must be received no later than 20 May 2005 and should be addressed to:

Mourad Ahmia  
Executive Secretary of the Group of 77  
United Nations Headquarters  
Room S-3953  
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.  
Phone: (+1 212) 963-3816/963-0192  
Fax: (+1 212) 963-3515/963-1753  
Email: g77off@unmail.org

A copy should also be sent to:

Mohamed H.A. Hassan  
Executive Director  
The Academy of Sciences of the Developing World  
Strada costiera, 11 34014  
Trieste, Italy  
Phone: (+39 040) 2240327  
Fax: (+39 040) 224559  
Email: Info@twas.org

## **G77 SEES SYNERGY BETWEEN MDGs AND SOCIAL SUMMIT**

UNITED NATIONS (G77/IPS) — Addressing the High-level plenary session of the Commission for Social Development, Ambassador Stafford Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of 77, said that poverty reduction has assumed high priority for national governments and the international community since the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen.

Speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he said there is a synergy between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals of Copenhagen— certainly in terms of the targets to be achieved by 2015 in relation to poverty, hunger, literacy, health and infant mortality.

“We are encouraged by the conclusions of the Millennium Project Report, which point to the possibility of achieving success in these areas, provided that agreed ODA (Official Development Assistance) obligations are met. We strongly urge our partners in the developed world to meet these commitments,” he added.

Ambassador Neil said that progress towards MDGs also signifies progress for the Copenhagen Programme, with its goal of comprehensively addressing social development, encompassing such areas as poverty reduction, the creation of an enabling economic environment, human rights, equality, peace, human dignity and ethical values, all of which form part of promoting the betterment of the human condition.

“For us in the developing world, the biggest challenge is the availability of resources to finance programmes for implementation,” he pointed out.

The Group of 77 and China have reaffirmed their commitment to fulfilling all the goals agreed at Copenhagen, in particular those relating to the three core themes: poverty eradication, full employment and social integration.

In relation to the first commitment of Copenhagen, that of creating an enabling political, social, cultural and legal environment for social development, there have been both positive and negative trends, he said.

In the political and institutional arena there have been increased moves towards democratization, a general awareness of the need for respect for human rights and increasing civil society participation and partnerships with governments for social development.

In principle there is now greater understanding with regard to the economic environment necessary for social development. From a philosophical point of view, there is now wider acceptance that market reforms and structural adjustment programmes must pay attention to their social impact, if they are to be sustainable, he added.

However, the institutional framework for policy-making at both the national and international levels still needs to

be strengthened to fully integrate economic and social policies.

A crucial element of the economic environment is the undeniable reality of globalisation and interdependence. Significant gains have been recorded by many countries, particularly in the developed world.

“Yet for many countries in the South, the benefits of globalisation, of transfer of technology and improved access of goods and services for developing countries to international markets, are not being realized,” the G77 chairman said.

Some also suffer from the imposition of punitive and discriminatory policies. “Hence we continue to advocate for mechanisms to ensure a fair equitable process of globalisation, where all are given an opportunity to benefit”.

With regard to the three main themes of poverty eradication, full employment, and social integration, successes have been recorded but in some critical areas, there is much left to be done.

It is notable, he said, that the level of extreme poverty in China fell from 33% to 18% of the population between 1990 and 1999, and that the transition economies have seen a reversal in the poverty rates in the 1990s.

And while most of Asia and North Africa are on course to meeting the MDG target for poverty reduction, there has been

little or no progress in sub-Saharan Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Poverty therefore remains a formidable challenge. The Secretary-General's report indicates that as a result of low or uneven growth in 2000, more than 1.1 billion people worldwide are struggling to survive on less than \$1 a day, and more than twice as many on less than \$2 a day.

It notes further, that in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia and Eastern Europe the number of poor people increased by 102 million. In addition, in South Asia, home to almost 500 million poor, the total number has hardly changed from 1990 to 1999.

The G-77 and China are deeply concerned, particularly with the situation of Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which continue to face marginalisation and severe human suffering.

“There is an urgent need for international action through provision of substantial resources to meet immediate needs. We believe that long-term solutions should also be sought through such initiatives as external debt reduction, investment in infrastructure, capacity building and the removal of obstacles to market access and halting the spread of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS and malaria,” he concluded.

---

*For many countries in the South, the benefits of globalisation, of transfer of technology and improved access of goods and services for developing countries to international markets, are not being realized.*

---

## SOUTH SUMMIT TO FINALIZE COMMON POSITION ON IMPLEMENTING MDGs

GENEVA (G77/IPS) - The chairmen/coordinators of the G77 chapters, who met in Geneva March 1-2, unanimously agreed to elaborate a common position on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be presented by world leaders in New York in September this year.

“We strongly believe that the year 2005 presents a formidable challenge for the developing countries as we prepare for the follow-up and implementation of the MDGs and other issues to be considered at the special event of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly,” they said in a final communique released in Geneva, after the 38th meeting of G77 chapters.

The Second South Summit, scheduled to take place in the Qatari capital of Doha in June, would therefore be an opportune occasion to advance the development agenda for developing countries and strengthen South-South cooperation.

The chairmen/coordinators also said that in view of the broad nature of the agenda at the South Summit, and the importance of its outcome, “it is indispensable for all members of the Group of 77 to participate in the South Summit at the level of Head of State or Government”.

“In order to make full use of the collective wisdom and experience of the Group of 77, we look forward to the participation of experts from all of the Group of 77 Chapters in the substantive preparatory process for the South Summit, as well as at the Summit itself”.

The meeting, which was under the chairmanship of Ambassador Stafford O.Neil— Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the UN and chairman of the G77 in New York— also agreed on specific measures to improve coordination among the G77 chapters.

These measure include:

- The preparation and full implementation of an integrated core work program for the G-77 to ensure that all Chapters are able to contribute their expertise to the major processes underway in a timely and relevant manner;
- Supplementing formal institutional contacts through the facilitation of informal contacts between experts in the various chapters on specific issues to encourage the free flow of ideas and exchange of information, including through the use of ICT, and development of website through the designation of focal points in the various chapters;
- To create a working group, with Geneva Chapter as the Focal Point, to study the proposals put forward at the 40th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting of the G77 and China in Sao Paulo last June, including the proposals circulated by the relevant international organizations such

as the South Center, with a view to their sustained implementation and follow-up.

- To improve the coherence and harmony of the overall policy adopted by the Ministers of Finance and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 regarding monetary and financial issues.
- Close engagement with the G-24 especially in relation with the spring meeting of ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization.
- To ensure sustained implementation, and continuing improvement, of the agreements reached at this chapters meeting for greater policy coherence among chapters and within chapters.
- Recommend to the Foreign Ministers of the G-77 at their forthcoming Ministerial Meeting the consideration of the establishment of G-77 at WTO.
- Recommend to the forthcoming eleventh session of the IFCC to be held in Havana from 21-23 March to reconsider the composition and functioning of the group of G-24.
- Request the Group of 24 to provide inputs in relation with the operations of international financial institutions in the context of reviewing the democratization and the participation of developing countries in the global economic governance.

The chairmen/coordinators also commended the overall quality of the Millennium Project Report as it concludes that the MDGs are achievable within the time frame of 2015, through a more intensified programme of economic cooperation in the global partnership.

“We support the Report’s emphasis on the principle of national ownership with regard to establishing the priorities and strategies in country programmes”.

This will ensure that programmes are tailored to meet the needs of each country’s socio-economic situation and are not the result of the imposition of economic models based on ideological and theoretical prescriptions, the communique said.

The meeting also reiterated the G77’s firm commitment to further strengthening South-South cooperation. “This modality of cooperation is increasingly important, both as a strategy in support of development and as a means of ensuring the effective participation of developing countries in the emerging global economic order”, the communique said.

“In this context, we welcome the commemoration of the United Nations day for South-South Cooperation last December and request the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to publish on regular basis a report on the status of South-South cooperation as mandated by the South Summit.” it added.

# DIRECTORY OF G-77 CHAPTERS FOR 2005

## NEW YORK

H.E. Mr. Stafford Neil  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Jamaica  
to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77  
767 Third Avenue, 9th Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Tel: (212)935-7509 | Fax: (212)935-7607  
Email: jamaica@un.int | Website : www.un.int/jamaica

Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77  
Room S-3953, United Nations Headquarters  
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA  
Telephone: (212) 963-3816/963-0192  
Fax: (212) 963-3515/963-0753  
Email: g77off@unmail.org  
Website: www.g77.org

## GENEVA

His Excellency Dr. Antoine MINDUA KESIA-MBE  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Chairman of the Group of 77, Geneva Chapter  
Avenue de Bude 18 (Local 1822)  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 7401680 Fax: (41-22) 7401682  
Email: missionrdc@bluewin.ch

G-77 Liaison Office  
Palais des Nations  
UNCTAD, 8-14 avenue de la paix  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Telephone: (41-22)9175633 Fax: (41-22)99071749  
Email: susan.toh@unctad.org  
Website: www.g77.org/geneva/geneva.html

## NAIROBI

H.E. Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cuba  
to UNEP and UN-HABITAT  
Chairman of the Group of 77, Nairobi Chapter  
Mama Ngina Street, International House, 13th Floor, P.O. Box 198  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: (254-20) 241003/241005 Fax: (254-20) 4241023

G-77 Liaison Office  
The UN Complex, Gigiri, Nairobi  
Room No. CW-208, CW-209  
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel:(254-20)241003/241005 | Fax: (254-20)623929/623748  
Email: beverly.miller@unep.org  
Website: www.g77.org/nairobi/nairobi.html

## PARIS

H.E. Mr. Javier Díaz Carmona  
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Costa Rica to UNESCO  
Chairman of the Group of 77, Paris Chapter  
MS1.42, 1 rue Miollis  
75015 Paris, France  
Tel. (331)45682572| Fax (331)442731645  
Email: j.diaz@unesco.org

G-77 Liaison Office  
Bureau MS1.05  
1, rue Miollis  
75015 Paris, France  
Tel. (331)45683228 | Fax: (331)45683277  
Email: kj.sow@unesco.org  
Website: www.unesco.org/g77/

## ROME

H.E. Mrs. Dato' Lily Zachariah  
Ambassador of Malaysia, Permanent Representative  
to the United Nations Organizations based in Rome  
Chairperson of the Group of 77, Rome Chapter  
Rome, Italy  
Email: mw.rome@flashnet.it

G-77 Liaison Office  
FAO Headquarters  
Room A-132  
Tel. (390)6-57053972; Fax: (390)6-57056105  
Email: mw.rome@flashnet.it | malagrim@virgilio.it  
suzanne.giometti@fao.org  
Website: www.g77.org/rome/

## VIENNA

H.E. Mr. Sheel Kant Sharma  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of India  
Chairman of the Group of 77, Vienna Chapter  
Kärntner Ring 2/2nd Fl.  
A-1010 Vienna Austria  
Tel. (43-1) 505866632 Fax: (43-1) 35059219

G-77 Liaison Office  
Vienna International Centre  
Room D1073  
A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone: (43-1)26026-3628/5069;  
Fax: (43-1)213463628/260266891  
Email: aheuls@unido.org  
Website: www.g77.org/vienna/

## WASHINGTON, DC (G-24)

Mr. Paul Toungui  
Minister of State for Economy, Finance, Budget, and Privatization  
of the Gabonese Republic  
Chairman of the Group of 24  
Libreville, Gabonese Republic

G-24 Liaison Office  
1875 I Street N.W. , Suite IS 2-285  
Washington D.C. 20431, U.S.A.  
Telephone: (202)623-6101; Fax: (202)623-6000  
Email: g24@g24.org  
Website: www.g24.org