

Statement by Bangladesh delegation  
Special Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 & China  
11 June 2004

Your Excellency

It gives us immense pleasure to join the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of G-77 and China at Sao Paulo. We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for your personal commitment to the cause of our Group. Bangladesh delegation reaffirms its full support and cooperation in discharging your and your delegation's responsibility as the Coordinator of our Group in New York. We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our host Brazil for their warm hospitality.

Your Excellency,

2. The G-77 was born out of a necessity. It was a manifestation of unity and solidarity to pursue our common goals at a time when development was bypassing a major part of the globe. The world has undergone tremendous changes than it was forty years ago. We are all riding in the wave of globalization, which is opportunity for fortunate few and daunting challenges for too many. The challenges of development have become more acute in an integrated globalized world. It is all the more imperative now that we remain united to advance our interest.

Your Excellency,

3. The spirit of multilateralism is dwindling. There are statements of good intentions from the international community to support our development efforts. However, in reality we see little manifestations of those intentions. That is why the concerns that were with us forty years ago are still with us. ODA has been consistently falling, debt burden is mounting, FDI remains concentrated in few destinations, technology gap is widening, and many of us have not yet developed infrastructure and capacity to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities from ICT revolution. We need to redouble our efforts to explore new approaches of development cooperation with our development partners so that we can beneficially integrate into the global economy.

Your Excellency,

4. The United Nations over the years has assumed greater responsibility in promoting our economic and social development. In the last decade, we have had a series of Conferences dealing with development issues. The international community, together with us, has set targets of achievement. It is time now to concentrate on how do we achieve the internationally agreed targets. Our Group has a critical role to play in the implementation of the outcomes of those Conferences. We should work to further strengthen the role of United Nations in promoting international cooperation for economic and social development.

Your Excellency,

5. For the last four decade UNCTAD has been providing invaluable service to the developing countries in trade and development issues. We have to make every effort to strengthen UNCTAD at a time when there is a move to weaken its capacity to assist our countries. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that UNCTAD remains strong and relevant in a changing world, and also promotes our interest.

Your Excellency,

6. Increased South-South cooperation has huge potential for our development. One of the emerging trends in South-South cooperation is the expansion of South-South trade. We see South-South trade as a complementary force to increase our trade. The Third round of GSTP is to be launched shortly. It is in the interest of all that we make this round meaningful for our trade to flourish. Developing countries should ensure that the LDCs get additional opportunities through GSTP to trade their way out of poverty. We must work together to ensure that the new geography of trade is not dysfunctional for us.

Your Excellency,

7. While on political, social and development issues such as finance, debt, health we easily find common ground, on economic issues we are sometimes divided. The G-77 does not speak with one voice on trade matters. Given the heterogeneity of the Group with different resource endowments and levels of development, we may not have same positions on trade matters. However, that should not affect the solidarity for those who have little opportunity from the multilateral trading system. If the weak are not helped by the stronger of the G-77, it may degenerate to just another forum in which the interests of just a few are promoted.

Your Excellency,

8. Ours is a group that was born to bring about a fair international system that could ensure development of all. Some of us have succeeded in integrating to the global economy, while many of us are still grappling with underdevelopment. The group needs to work more vigorously for an enabling international environment which can increase our trade, bring more FDI, creates condition for accumulation of capital, ease our debt burden, allow us policy space to pursue our development objectives.

Your Excellency,

9. As we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we should not be complacent of our successes. The G-77 must not live in the past. The test of G-77 would be how we can organize ourselves to build strategic partnership among us and between our development partners so that we can raise all boats.

I thank you.