



Statement by
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On the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the
Group of 77

São Paulo, Brazil
11 – 12 June 2004

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers of the Group of 77 and China
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour for my delegation to be here in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of our Group, which came into existence on 15 June 1964. I would therefore like to extend my delegation's deepest appreciation to the Government and People of Brazil for hosting this meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality granted to our delegation. This testifies long standing commitments of the Government of Brazil to promote international cooperation for development as well as to enhance the solidarity among countries of the South.

Mr. Chairman,
In the 40 years of its existence, the Group of 77 and China has been able to articulate a framework for action to promote development in the developing countries. Presented first as the 1967 Charter of Algiers, it was later refined and elaborated in 2000 when the first South Summit took place in Havana, Cuba. Today, the Group has been able to exert influence on the United Nations global development agenda, helping to tailor it to the common needs and interests of developing countries.

This Special Ministerial Meeting gives opportunity for the Group of 77 and China to assess its strengths as well as weaknesses so as to build solid and more focused action programs to respond to current and future mounting challenges. While recognizing the opportunities offered by globalization, however, given their limited capacity, many developing countries unable to seize such opportunities and yet continue facing development challenges.

Furthermore, they even have no voice in strategic global decision and rule making processes, that significantly influential to their development. Therefore, it is very critical for the Group, not only to strengthen its solidarity but also to pursue the feasible means to promote cooperation, including through better coordination among Chapters. By doing so, the Group will be able to address issues of particular important to the developing countries in comprehensive and coordinated manner.

The principles of non-confrontation, cooperation, shared values and solidarity that the Group upholds as well as the positive approach that the groups takes in economic and development issues will continue to be the Group's strength. My delegation is aware of the fact that the Group 77 and China has acquired significant strength to influence global development agenda, that individual country would never have been achieved otherwise.

Mr. Chairman,
Poverty, high unemployment, financing for development, human resources and market access are among the most pressing issues that need to be

addressed by the Group of 77 and China. It is indeed our responsibility to advance economic and social development, nevertheless, without enabling international environment it is difficult, if not impossible for developing countries to meet the development goals.

In this context, the political will of developed countries to create an enabling environment is of paramount importance to facilitate developing countries in meeting the targets and objectives of high and sustained economic growth and sustainable development as set out by the major United Nations conferences and summits as well as to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The developed countries must fully implement the commitments, targets, goals and objectives of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

We are very concerned however, with the selective approach that developed countries adopt in implementing the outcomes of the conferences and summits. It is only emphasizing on governance aspects and social issues, while excluding obligations in areas such as providing greater market access, easing debt burdens, enhancing ODA and promoting FDI and other financial flows, ICT, technology transfer and capacity-building for human resources. We believe that the achievement of goals 1 to 7 of the MDGs requires the implementation of goal 8 in particular on the part of developed countries. On our part, we should also fully commit ourselves to implement the commitments, goals and targets of the MDGs in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. Chairman,

As the organization that helped to establish the Group of 77 and China, UNCTAD has been growing along with the Group. The cooperation between the two should be deepened so that UNCTAD can continue to assist the Group in dealing with the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization. The growing tendency to undermine UNCTAD's role, by restricting it primarily to the provision of technical cooperation and reducing its role in policy analysis and consensus building in trade, technical cooperation and development, cannot be accepted. The three pillars of UNCTAD activities should be strengthened equally and in synergy.

In this context, recent decisions of the General Assembly to request UNCTAD to contribute not only to the implementation of major UN conferences and summits, but also to review the progress in the implementation of the commitments made and the agreement reached and to include UNCTAD in the high-level dialog of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO will further strengthen UNCTAD's role.

In harnessing globalization and trade liberalization the Group of 77 and China together with UNCTAD should pay greater attention to implications of new global regimes, systems and rules to the development of developing countries. In this regard, we strongly believe that the Group should strive for

the adoption by international community on the policy space for developing countries in formulating development strategies, especially in trade development based on their specific objectives, differing needs, and national interest which may not be taken into consideration by international decision and rule making processes.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to our consistent joint efforts to address development challenges and to derive maximum benefit from globalization and trade liberalization, we should be able to effectively utilize South-South cooperation as a major development asset. South-South cooperation serves not only as a vital tool for the unity and solidarity of the Group, but also more importantly contributes to developing countries' development. Through South-South cooperation, we have been able to share development experiences and good practices among ourselves.

In this regard, South-South cooperation programs, especially in the area of capacity building, should be continued and further developed through highest political commitment as well as concrete actions. In this context, Indonesia, in 2005 will hold the Golden Jubilee of the Asia-Africa Conference of 1955 and it is expected that a New Strategic Partnership will be launched, as concrete contribution to the strengthening of South-South cooperation. For that purpose, two preparatory meetings have been taken place in Indonesia and South Africa to formulate such Partnership.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, another matter that should engage the attention of the Group of 77 and China is the high-level meeting of the 60th United Nations General Assembly. Heads of State and Governments will participate in this high-level meeting which will be held at the commencement of the 60th UNGA in New York in 2005. We firmly believe that the focus of the Summit should be development issues. It should undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made to fulfill the commitments of the MDGs and all outcomes of UN major conferences and summits. It is therefore paramount for the Group to remain united, vigilant and focused in order to have action-oriented and viable outcomes of the Summit for the betterment of the people in the South.

We, therefore, believe that the future will get brighter for the Group of 77 and China. We expect that our meeting today will serve to revitalize the Group and help to refine its agenda so that our energies and efforts are invested productively to transform the international economic framework to ensure growth with equity and progress with stability for the global community.

I thank you.