

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RADZI RAHMAN
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA**

**TO THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF
77 TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77**

**AT
SAO PAULO, BRAZIL**

11- 12 JUNE 2004

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countries concerning economic, financial and developmental issues. The Group has been recognized as one of the principal and dynamic actors in the multilateral system. With the firm support of China, the Group of 77 has attained the ability to assert the necessary leverage and influence in the north-south dialogue on behalf of the developing world. The Group has also attained considerable achievements over the years in promoting south-south cooperation among developing countries.

4. All these have been made possible through the Group's ability in the last four decades to develop, maintain and sustain unity and solidarity among its members in negotiations with other partners. The cohesiveness of the Group has made it possible for the developing countries to take advantage of their numerical superiority under the existing multilateral system to protect and advance their collective interests. Unity has certainly provided the strength and the bargaining power for the Group. Therefore it is imperative that we make every effort to preserve and strengthen this unity.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Four decades have passed and we have witnessed the varying paces and levels of development among developing countries. Some have managed to move to a more comfortable zone in their economic development while others continue to be saddled with a myriad of problems hindering them from achieving

promise a better world in particular for developing countries. The coming year has been designated as the year for an important review and assessment of the progress of implementation of the set goals and actions. In that connection, this special ministerial meeting is certainly held at a very crucial juncture. This meeting should enable the Group to take stock of the challenges and opportunities available to us. It is therefore important for the Group of 77 to use this occasion to make a strong political statement to ensure that necessary measures are put on track and that the pledges and the set goals are fulfilled as planned.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.