

~~Discussion note by H.E. Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Commerce of the Union of Myanmar, at the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 on 11-12 June, 2004, at Sao Paulo, Brazil.~~

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. First of all I would like to congratulate for the 40th Anniversary of the Group of 77 which was created on 15 June, 1964. I have acknowledged that during the last four decades, the Group has advocated a cardinal role for the promotion of developing countries in the international trade.

As we ^{are} all aware that globalization presents opportunities, challenges and risks for developing countries. However, globalization provides us challenges and risks more than opportunities. It is, therefore, to create more favourable environment for the economic development and growth of the developing countries. According to the past experience of 40 years, the developing countries are still facing with the problems of marginalization and poverty alleviation.

In this regard, trade growth is the key factor for the economic development and poverty reduction of our economies. Ways to enhance trade growth for these economies are to increase their market access by supporting strong rule-based trading system. We, therefore, look forward to the continuation of the WTO process in which specific areas of interest for developing countries, such as improving market access, special and differential treatment and phasing out of agricultural subsidies have to be negotiated.

Mr. Chairman,

We realised that the Doha Ministerial Decisions could not be fully implemented. With the view to enhance the participation of developing countries in global trade, the developed countries should create favourable market access, and pull down the non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade and anti-dumping measures.

In this regard, special and differential treatments provisions should be defined clearly, precisely and implemented effectively, especially for Least Developed Countries. Moreover, we have rejected the imposition of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries which severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We, therefore, call on the international community neither to recognize these measures nor apply them.

In the current international economic climate with those situations, Mr. Chairman, the trend of global economy is tend to increase South-South Cooperation. Therefore, we encourage for the participation of South-South Cooperation both as a means of strategy and of enhancing participation of developing countries in the emerging global economy.

In conclusion, We, the Myanmar Delegation would like to thank to ^{THE STATE OF QATAR, THE CHAIR OF G-77,} the Host country, Brazil, UNCTAD and the organizer for arranging this important event.

Thank you for your attention.

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