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**Elements for the Statement of H.E. Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shiekh,
Minister for Investment and Privatization of Pakistan at the
Special Ministerial Meeting of the G77 and China to
Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the G77, Sao Paulo.,
Brazil (11-12 June, 2004)**

- Congratulate the Chairman for chairing this historic event marking the 40th anniversary of the G77 and China.
- This meeting and UNCTAD-XI is taking place in the backdrop of three important development; a) efforts to revive trade talks and recent developments in the global trading system; b) signs of recovery in international economy and trade; and c) institutional reform of the United Nations.
- Seen in this context, UNCTAD XI and this special meeting have provided the Group of 77 a timely opportunity to redefine its role in the fast globalizing world and re-assert itself in shaping up the global economic agenda in the years ahead. This could best be done by addressing the imbalances of international economic and trading systems and placing the interest of developing countries at the heart of the global agenda.
- This would require the Group to advance its collective interest in a number of important areas such as trade, debt, science and technology, financing for development and poverty eradication. These challenges have obstructed the pace of our development and incessantly deteriorating the living standards of our people.
- This would require concerted action both at national and international levels. In order to achieve the above objectives and to stimulate economic growth in developing regions, we need to ensure that the international community takes the following global policy actions;
 - o A political commitment to achieve the agreed ODA target of 0.7% of developed country GNP;
 - o A much more ambitious effort at debt write-off and debt restructuring, which should cover not only the HIPC countries but also include the low-income countries with a high growth and demand potential;

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- A conscious policy action for capacity-building in the developing countries;
 - Bold political action to create innovative ways of financing development on concessional terms. In this regard, President Lula's initiative of holding a High-level Roundtable on innovative sources of financing for development" is a welcome step.
 - Finally, an urgent and bold exercise of political will be required on the part of the major trading partners to retrieve Doha Round and transform it into a genuine Development Round.
- Trade is the engine for development. However, after Cancun the fate of the Doha Work Programme has become uncertain. The developing countries need to continue to defend its interest in the WTO and translate the rhetoric about free markets, trade liberalization and the Doha Development Round into reality.
 - The collapse of the trade talks at Cancun has served as a wake up call for those who believe that the developing countries can be persuaded by slogans and symbolism to accept persisting trade inequity.
 - We need to continue to defend our position until satisfactory progress is made in fulfilling the promises made at Doha. We should not accept any new obligations in areas of interest to the industrial countries until the earlier commitments made by developed countries are fully implemented.
 - However, there are several other issues, outside the Doha Agenda, which need to be urgently addressed in order to integrate the developing countries into the global economy. These include:
 - One**, the continuing volatility and secular decline of commodity prices.
 - Two**, poverty alleviation.
 - Three**, the review and adjustment of current policies on the debt and finance from the perspective of their impact on development on trade expansion in the developing countries.
 - Four**, a review of restraints of transfer of technology to developing countries'.
 - Besides, the Group would have to defend its collective interest in a number of other important UN processes. The immediate task before us

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is the preparation for the 2005 "high-level event" of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Summit. We need to ensure that focus of the event remains on its development dimension.

- Needless to say that the unity of the Group for our collective interest and the spirit of cooperation is the prerequisite for the fulfillment of the above objectives.
