

PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION DURING THE G-77 AND
CHINA MINISTERIAL MEETING, 11-12 JUNE 2004,
SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Mr. Chairman, it is indeed my distinct honor and privilege to participate as Head of the Philippine delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 and China during the historic observance of the Group's fortieth anniversary. We indeed find it most fitting that the Chairmanship of the G-77 and China is at this time under ^{your} the able stewardship of ~~(Qatar) (Brazil)~~.

Permit me also to congratulate your government on the way it has effectively guided the Group of 77 this year. We can only look with confidence to further progress under your Chairmanship. We were deeply impressed by (today or yesterday's) commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China and fully subscribe to the G-77 and China Ministerial Declaration.

The spirit of unity and cooperation that has been the bulwark of the G-77 and China has enabled it to achieve significant gains in shaping economic and social multilateral diplomacy. G-77 has bequeathed to the developing countries the legacies of a successfully negotiated Generalized Scheme of Preferences

(GSP), and the landmark adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. Initiatives such as the GSTP also comes^s to mind.

However, the recent global economic developments in the past two decades provide little cause for complacency in the Group of 77 and China. *The policy objectives of G77 remain almost the same as they were 40 years ago.* Of foremost concern is that fact that, despite the expansion of the global economy, poverty, hunger, unemployment, underdevelopment and environmental deterioration continue to blight the promises of a globalized world economy. The role of developing countries in international decision-making, in spite of deepening global economic interdependence continues to be marginal. An effective multilateral response to many of the global problems of trade and development and their pernicious consequences remain to be found. Of serious concern also is the weakening commitment of major donors in fulfilling development commitments. There is likewise the alarming tendency on the part of developed countries to take decisions that affect the world economy outside the multilateral framework of the United Nations system, without giving enough consideration to the interests of developing countries.

Consequently, the G-77 must continue to pursue its enduring objectives. We must continue to seek a just, prosperous, peaceful and equitable international economic order. ~~It is therefore important that the G-77 and China explore ways and means for enhancing its negotiating strength on issues of critical importance.~~

~~The Philippines remains committed to achieving the development goals set out in the Millenium Declaration, At the same time, we strongly urge the international community to implement effectively, the various commitments made in the recent development-related summits and conferences, [notably the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the 1994 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.]~~

The Philippines is ^{also} deeply concerned over the uneven benefits among countries that have resulted in the processes of globalization and liberalization. Hence, the need for a global strategy aimed at integrating the development dimension into global processes and for greater coherence between national development strategies and international obligations.

At the same time, the Philippines believes that policy space is necessary to and can make a significant contribution to effective and beneficial adjustment of developing countries to a globalized world economy. We wish to underscore that there is no single approach to development. Each country's development policies must be adapted to their particular needs and priorities.

The Philippines believes that trade is not an end in itself but only a means to sustained development and growth. Thus, we consider the Doha Ministerial Conference as a significant milestone in the integrated treatment of trade and development.

The Philippines also notes with great concern the declining trend in ODA, the increasing external debt of poor nations, the falling prices for crucial commodities and other main export products from developing countries. Greater South-south Cooperation remains an essential component for increasing developing country economic links and as a means for promoting economic growth.

Mr. Chairman:

In dealing with these concerns, the Philippines remains fully committed to support the goals and objectives of the G-77 and China, especially through the United Nations. In this regard, it is essential that we seek to strengthen the roles of the General

Assembly and UNCTAD in promoting development cooperation. Any revitalization ^{of further} ~~of the~~ must ~~include~~ aim at these goals. Marginalizing the role of these institutions and the issue of development itself ~~is to be avoided~~ must be opposed. Finally, greater unity, cooperation and coordination remain the key elements for strengthening G77s negotiating capacity on the development issues of our time. In an increasingly interconnected world, ~~the collective weight of G77~~

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

and using ^{our} its collective weight for launching global initiatives in development.