



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR JUMA NGASONGWA (MP),
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL
MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GROUP OF 77, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, 11 AND 12 JUNE 2004

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Mr. Chairman,

Fellow Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I should, on behalf of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania, congratulate you and your country, Qatar, for presiding over the Group of 77 and China on its 40th anniversary. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of Brazil for their hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Sao Paulo.

History is repeating itself in Sao Paulo this week. The Group of 77 was born on 15 June 1964 in Geneva at the end of the First Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Today, on the eve of UNCTAD XI, we are meeting in Brazil, one of the original founders of the Group currently under the able and inspirational leadership of His Excellency, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. In keeping with the visionary tradition of the founding fathers of this Group, President Lula's crusade against hunger and poverty addresses the fundamental issues of human security and development in the world to which we are all committed.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Group, we have come a long way; together we have survived the vicissitudes of bipolar ideological politics and periodic economic crises. During the four decades, we engaged in often elusive and sometimes frustrating pursuits for a better economic order, yet we have persevered in the face of numerous adversities. In the process, we have remained resilient and

persistent because of our conviction that we have to remain united in order to be effective in articulating our concerns, advancing our interests and harmonizing our strategies in global economic negotiations and dialogue.

Mr. Chairman,

The global threats to human security pose challenges to all human kind, particularly in poor developing countries. Threats to developing countries are more exacerbated by the prevalence of rampant poverty, hunger, shortage of food and diseases. In this regard, the Group should focus its attention on the implementation and achievement of the Havana Programme of Action which contains a number of far-sighted decisions in respect of globalization, knowledge and technology.

I should, in this regard, emphasize the need for a fair and inclusive process of globalization which has been comprehensively addressed in several reports including the recent Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization which was co-chaired by the Presidents of Tanzania and Finland under the facilitation of the International Labour Organization. The Report seeks to draw world attention and action by the various stakeholders at various levels to integrate and complement the economic and social aspects of globalization to render them beneficial to all in society.

Mr. Chairman,

The multilateral trading system of negotiations itself is also under challenge. Multilateralism in promoting global economic and political stability ought to be pursued as a goal in itself as well as a strategy for collective action. It is imperative that the Group of 77 and China should continue to strengthen its cohesiveness to defend and ensure the existence of multilateralism through the United Nations and other fora as demonstrated by developing countries at the 2003 Cancun trade negotiations. The resumed negotiations on the Doha

Development Round should proceed in a more balanced manner taking into account the critical concerns of the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group should continue with the same spirit of unity, solidarity and cooperation in addressing the critical development problems facing developing countries, such as market access to developed countries; stabilization of commodity prices; addressing all trade distorting policies, both tariffs and non-tariff barriers; inadequate capital flows including FDI; increase of financial assistance particularly ODA to developing countries; and the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic. Equally, the Group should also continue our relentless efforts to seek fair participation in policy and critical decision-making in the global financial and trade institutions.

My delegation appreciates and reiterates the need for continued support of the Group in assisting LDCs in their efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve tangible economic development and implement the outcomes of major conferences and summits. The implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) has been very slow and discouraging. It should be recognized that on their part, many least developed countries have already introduced far-reaching political and economic reforms to encourage and support market-oriented policies. A major bottleneck has been lack of financial resources that were promised by the international donor community. The Group of 77 should continue advocating the urgency for the international community to support the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action and to assist in exploring new avenues of mobilizing requisite financial resources.

Mr. Chairman,

Against the historical and present challenges to our Group, we should recognize our achievements over the decades and build on them to further advance our cause. The Group has made notable successes and

achievements in a number of areas, including its strong cohesiveness; expansion of its membership; maintaining and strengthening a collective negotiating capacity at different international/multilateral fora, particularly at the United Nations; promoting economic and technical cooperation (ECDC/TCDC) among developing countries; initiating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among countries; making South-South trade a reality and a continuous feature of South-South cooperation; and the establishment of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund to finance projects in developing countries.

The meetings on South-South cooperation have been major milestones which the Group should be proud of. On this occasion, we must pay particular tribute to the intellectual and political vision of the founding leaders who laid the foundation for this Cooperation through the decades. My delegation also commends the South Centre for its ongoing advocacy and supporting role in this common endeavour and calls upon countries to strengthen the financial base of the Centre to enable it to implement its mandate effectively and efficiently as the think tank of the countries of the South.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me state that as one of the founding members of the Group of 77 and China, Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to the Group. We value the historical relationship between the Group of 77 and UNCTAD whose eleventh session is also the 40th anniversary of the Organization. We trust that the Group of 77 and China and UNCTAD will continue to work constructively to advance international dialogue and partnerships with developed countries in shaping a fair, inclusive and a more enlightened economic system in this era of globalization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.