

(11 June 2004)

**Statement**  
**by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**at the Special Ministerial Meeting to Commemorate**  
**the 40th Anniversary of the G77 and China**

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*Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister,*

At the outset, I wish to thank the Government of Brazil in hosting this auspicious meeting to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the G77 and China. My thanks also go to the Government of Qatar for her chairmanship of the Group.

During the past forty years, our group has made significant impacts in shaping international economic cooperation and development. Our group has become a major force that provides important ideas and initiatives and has made a notable contribution to the effective functioning of the United Nations. In retrospect, it would have been difficult for each of us to individually achieve what we have collectively accomplished in the past. After forty long years, our unity and solidarity still remain robust; the founders of the Group of 77 must be full with pride and joy on behalf of this gathering that honours our success.

Our rich diversity together with the ability to achieve unwavering unity has brought us this far to where we are today. Diversity has proved to be our most valuable asset, as well as the source of our inner strength, and has enriched our ideas and initiatives. I am glad to see that we have always built on, and continued to gain from, this inner strength. We should be most grateful to our predecessors, who had deep commitment to strictly adhere to our enshrined principles of transparency and inclusiveness that are requisite to our unity. Such commitment has been essential in helping us pass the test of time.

It is also a source of gratification to recognise our strong commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation, an integral part of our strategy to achieve sustained economic growth. Although much has been accomplished, we have yet to realize the full potential of this cooperation. Our complete cooperation in this area will enable us to collectively achieve our common development goals. We should fully realize and build upon the

platforms created by the Havana Programme of Action and Marrakech Framework of Implementation of South-South Cooperation. Special emphasis should be put on the regional and subregional cooperation for deliverable projects and programmes. While building our strength from within, we should also aim to gain from the outside. In this context, our partnership with the North should be further explored and pursued

In the Monterrey Consensus, we strove to promote "coherence", "coordination" and "cooperation" within the United Nations system and among UN and all other major stakeholders. The same should also be applied and practiced within our Group. More efforts should be made to further strengthen the coherence and coordination of various Chapters and other mechanisms of the Group so as to synergize their knowledge on issues of common concern to the Group. In doing so, we should find ways to keep up with and take full advantage of the new communication technologies that are the underlying forces of our globalizing world today.

***Mr. Chairman,***

The establishment of the Group of 77 at the first session of UNCTAD forty years ago was of genuine historic significance. While the Group of 77 has gained its maturity through time and become a major force in international economic relations, the roles and objectives of UNCTAD in the more complex and rapidly changing world still remain valid and are even more relevant than they were four decades ago. Without UNCTAD, our Group and the developing countries as a whole would have to strive much harder in international trade and development. After the setback of the Cancun Meeting, we are even more convinced that UNCTAD can play a much greater role in building a consensus in the multilateral trading system.

As we are on the eve of UNCTAD XI, my delegation therefore wishes the meeting all of the success it deserves, a success which will have long lasting positive impacts on the development process of developing countries. UNCTAD XI is in a position to help create an enabling global environment conducive to national economic and social development and responsive to the changing pattern of the world reality. At the same time, developing countries should be given national economic policy space, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, in relation to the international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations.

Looking at the big picture, the United Nations as a whole should be entrusted with a central role in international economic relations,

and especially in policy-making and development. My delegation, therefore, strongly welcomes the annual ECOSOC High-level Dialogue with the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization within the framework of Monterrey Consensus as a significant step towards this end. Full participation of all major multi-stakeholders, including the World Trade Organization, must therefore be both encouraged and ensured.

At the same time, my delegation wishes to join the call for the revival and strengthening of multilateral systems such as the United Nations. As interdependence becomes more evident and increasingly indispensable in a growing globalizing world, it is multilateralism that gives us the hope and opportunity to solve international differences in a sustainable manner. Cooperation and non-confrontation should continue to be the important guiding principles in our dealing with international economic issues.

***Mr. Chairman,***

While our achievements in the past forty years have given us the confidence to cope with the many challenges facing us today, we must not fail to reflect upon the future and our common course of action. We have arduous tasks in creating an international trade system that is fair and equitable, and in making globalization inclusive and fully beneficial to all. Reforming international financial architecture to provide greater transparency and encourage the effective participation of developing countries requires our concerted effort.

Our tasks also include ensuring good governance at all level, encouraging increased foreign investment as means to create employment, technology transfer and capacity building, increased debt cancellation in support of development, especially for those countries that are in urgent need, and increasing foreign assistance that focuses on creating and strengthening institutions that are necessary for good governance. Foreign assistance should also be directed to creating a national environment that is conducive to foreign investment. My delegation firmly believes that a sustained and equitable global economic growth will significantly contribute to a high level of global security and prosperity.

***Mr. Chairman,***

Never before have we been equipped with such expansive mutual goals and comprehensive plans. While they provide us with a good

foundation on which to move forward in our attempt to deal with all of the challenges we face, we must not let our enthusiasm fade. We must instead fully optimize it by taking concrete steps to realize these goals. I am convinced that, of all the challenges we are facing today, our most arduous task, which is poverty eradication can be successfully completed if we are all truly committed to achieving that goal.

It is my hope that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly next year will give us a much needed impetus in implementing the MDGs and the other outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. Special emphasis and assistance should be given to the developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa to enable them to pursue more effectively their efforts in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs .

I also look forward to the Second Summit of our Group, which will be held next year and which will once again attest our unity, solidarity and strong commitment that will significantly move us toward our development goals. We look forward to working closely with other members of our Group to make this Conference a successful one.

Thank you.