

STATEMENT BY

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AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

AT THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT

DOHA, STATE OF QATAR

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Your Highness
Your Majesties
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Representatives
Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, let me thank the Emir, the Government and people of the State of Qatar for making us feel so welcome in this remarkable country. Ever since boarding the Qatar Airways flight to Doha we have been overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality of the Qatar people. I wish also to express my profound gratitude to the Government of Qatar for their extreme generosity that has enabled many of us to be represented here for this important Summit, and for putting in place grandeur arrangements for the meeting

We have assembled here to contribute ideas and develop concrete and practical strategies in how this great group of nations that make up the G77 & China can transform the global economic and political structure to ensure a better world for all humanity. The timing of this Summit just a few months away from the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September is therefore opportune as we endeavour to make the global village fairer, freer, and safer for all its inhabitants.

Many of us have suffered from past injustices and oppression and these common histories must be the uniting driving force to ensure we do not fall victim to these same forces disguised in other forms. Western driven reforms, development policies, models, and conditional development assistance and advices often distort the realities and after implementation our economies end up consuming so much energies and resources that we become overly dependant on the major players and the forces they dictate. This is the impetus for us to see change. The G77 & China has therefore this collective responsibility to represent all its members, both big and small in fighting for a world that is fair. For small island

countries like Vanuatu and the other Pacific states, we attach great importance to the organization, and seek to develop valued relationships with all its members in building a common future.

In terms of Vanuatu's national development reforms have been modified to suit local conditions, in particular taking into careful consideration cultural and traditional values and sensitivities. The Vanuatu Government has also taken the initiative to prioritize its national development agenda, and this process takes into account the Millennium Development Goals, and other international commitments.

However, we remain concerned by the current ODA levels, and for small developing countries, in particular LDCs, the North must live up to its commitments and responsibilities. Many of us are restricted by stiff and quite immoral conditions that inhibit new financing and development initiatives. We continue to call for trade and investment, and labour export to help grow our economies.

The solidarity of the G77 & China is fundamental in achieving those objectives. There is agreement that South South cooperation must complement North South cooperation, and we are encouraged by the active support of South countries like China, Malaysia, Singapore, and India in complementing our national efforts, and in the same vein applaud the commitments announced by the State of Qatar yesterday. We urge other members of the Group to undertake similar programs to the small island countries and with just reference to the Pacific Island countries call on our friends in the South to expand cooperation in areas of trade, investment and human resource development.

On the question of United Nations reforms the democratization and empowerment of organs like the General Assembly and the ECOSOC are critical. This is to ensure relevance to today's world.