

**Statement**

**by**

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**of the**

**Islamic Republic of Iran**

**at the**

**Second South Summit**

**15 June 2005**

**Doha, Qatar**

## **In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the State of Qatar for hosting the Second South Summit. I am confident that the outcome of this Summit will play a crucial role in the promotion of cooperation and solidarity among developing countries. The Havana Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the first ever Summit of the South in the Year 2000, did in fact establish a solid foundation for the expansion of cooperation within the developing community. The current meeting, taking stock of recent developments and new circumstances, will undoubtedly open new horizons for further intra-South interaction and cooperation.

An overall assessment of the implementation of the Havana Programme of Action points to a relative success in achieving some of its major objectives. The very fact that challenges confronting developing countries are on the international agenda and coordinating institutions and mechanisms within the developing community have been strengthened at the decision-making processes at the international level is reflective of such a success. It is due to the positive impact of enhanced coordination within the South that cooperative relations among members of the community have expanded significantly in the fields of trade, investment, technology transfer, health, education and human development at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

We cannot be complacent, though, that despite relative and growing success there still exist tremendous untapped potentials, which call for expansion of cooperation in new fields. However, I should emphasize right here that the realization of such potentials depends on the active engagement and participation of other stakeholders, particularly civil society, private sector as well as academic and research institutions. It is my genuine hope that the final outcome of the Doha Summit will further contribute to the effective follow-up and implementation of the Havana Programme of Action and help towards the realization of the existing huge capabilities in our community.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me now turn to the other major item in our agenda- currently an important issue at the international level; the High-level Plenary Meeting of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, consecrated to the comprehensive assessment of the progress made thus far towards the realization of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration five years ago. On this agenda item, first I touch, in very brief words, on our national approach since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted. Substantial efforts have been made in the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard since the Year 2000. Appreciable decrease in the population under absolute poverty line and those under national poverty line; significant reduction in infant, child

and maternal mortality rates; substantial increase in the net enrolment ratio of female and male students in the tertiary education; notable increase in access to safe drinking water; expansion on a national scale of utilization of modern information and communications systems; and considerable progress in the area of protection of environment and biological diversity, could be mentioned as some of the achievements in the meantime. That said, I should hasten to add that we still face quite daunting challenges on the way to achieving comprehensive, long-term national development. Some of these challenges are as follows: reduction in the population under national poverty line; creation of job opportunities for our fast expanding work force, including for women, particularly for those with higher education and facilitation of their effective participation in the country's decision-making processes; preventing environmental degradation; and facilitating increased access to information and communication technologies.

The Millennium Summit and its adoption of specific Development Goals (MDGs) has, as a matter of fact, contributed to the enhancement of consensus and cooperation at international level for partnership for the promotion of development discourse and effective international cooperation at various levels. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) address some of the major areas of challenge and development priorities of the South. Equally important is the Millennium Declaration's emphasis on the imperative of effective international cooperation and partnership for development as indispensable prerequisites for achieving the agreed targets.

Moreover, the Declaration placed particular emphasis on the necessity of the creation and expansion of requisite infrastructure and capacity at the national level and mobilization of international resources - the two major components for a development strategy. It is unfortunate, yet true, that in almost all developing countries there exists a substantive gap between available financial resources and what is required for the actual realization of the MDGs. Sheer insufficiency of Official Development Assistance (ODA), further compounded by a parallel slow pace of increase in the mobilization of other international financial resources commensurate with the internationally agreed commitments of developed countries, have confronted developing countries with serious and in many cases insurmountable challenges. This situation has also made reliance on the mobilization of national resources in these countries all the more inevitable. Yet, good governance at the international level, coherence and coordination among political, trade, financial and monetary institutions at the global level, and a long-term durable solution for the chronic debt crisis of developing countries, are vital for creating an enabling global environment conducive to achieving a reasonable degree of development in the South in various fields, inclusive of trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me add a few more words on the importance of trade for development and developing countries. Trade, as we all know, is, in fact, a major means of expanding and mobilizing domestic and foreign resources for financing of development. And, we also happen to know, unfortunate as it is, that a large number of developing countries are suffering from lack of effective access to international markets, particularly in such

critical areas as textile and clothing, metals, commodities and raw materials, and agricultural products. Needless to say meaningful expansion of market access for goods and services of developing countries by developed countries; dismantling of trade barriers; and expanding trade preferences schemes constitute some of the major priorities of developing countries in the field of trade in order for them to mobilize both domestic and external resources for development, including realization of MDGs. Attraction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and other private flows is similarly crucial for augmenting investment opportunities in developing countries. In this regard, exchange of information on existing investment opportunities in developing countries, provision of financial support and promotion of insurance schemes for such investments are among necessary measures to help the developing South in their quest for progress and development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turning again to the paramount question of reform at the United Nations, I would like to underline, in very clear and unambiguous terms, that in our view promotion of good governance at the international level in parallel with the promotion of democracy and good governance at the national level are imperative for the actual realization of development goals. As asserted by President Khatmai in a recent letter to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "A vibrant, inclusive and democratic multilateralism, which is directly linked with and reinforced by democracy at the national level, provides the best hope for a future of the international community based on respect, tolerance, accountable governance, human rights and inclusiveness." Within this overarching environment, strengthening of North-South relations, promotion and consolidation of South-South cooperation, enhanced assistance from UN Funds and Programmes, and meaningful participation of non-state actors, civil society, NGOs and the private sector, could indeed make a difference in helping the South in its developmental efforts and undertakings.

And finally, **Mr. Chairman**, we find it quite problematic and challenging that "security discourse" seems to have crowded out "development discourse" on the international agenda. And this is not just a matter of concern for the South. This unfortunate trend represents an almost total reversal of the premises and promises of the United Nations major Conferences in the 1990s; they helped usher a period of close North-South exchange and cooperation on major developmental issues and priorities in various fields. They portended the seeds for genuine North-South partnership for development. In recent years, however and much to our collective chagrin, the international community has witnessed a concerted effort at shifting the dominant discourse from development to that of security and the primacy of requirements for security state. For us in the South security can only be defined within the overall framework of development, without which the concept of security will be devoid of any practical meaning. For us on the lower side of the development divide, poverty eradication, access to health services, promotion of education, protection of environment, and sustainable development, among others, are essential components for preventing conflict and promoting peace and security. Therefore, every effort should be made to return the "development discourse" to its rightful position and primacy on the

international agenda. The South should, on its part, focus its collective efforts on achieving development and contribute to the actual promotion and consolidation of peace and stability at national, regional and international levels. Honest and vigorous follow-up and implementation of the rich and valuable final outcome of this Summit – the two documents approved and presented to us by the Ministerial Meeting - will help each and all of us in the direction of this lofty ideal. We posit our genuine hopes in this collective endeavour.

Thank you very much for your patience.