



Intervention

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At the Second South Summit

15-16 June 2005, Doha, State of Qatar

- *Your Highness Emir, Chairman,*
- *Excellencies,*
- *Distinguished Delegates,*

1. First of all, I wish to express my utmost appreciation to the Government of Qatar for the kind hospitality and the excellent arrangements of the Summit. I also wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Highness Emir, Chairman, for convening this Second South Summit here in Doha. I am confident that this Second South Summit will be successful for the South-South cooperation.

Your Highness Emir, Chairman,

2. Since the **First South Summit** in Havana, in 2000, the timing of this **Second South Summit** is now very crucial, as this year, in September, the world leaders will meet in New York to review the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. Therefore, our meeting here is of great importance, as we need to forge certain common views on key issues of concern to the South prior to **“The High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly.”**

3. **First, I believe that we need to critically review the current state of development in the South.** There is no doubt that most countries in the South are developing and least developing countries (LDCs). By and large, they are confronting similar challenges: poverty, insufficient human resources,

inadequate infrastructure, infectious diseases, and natural disasters. They also share the same level of economic development and produce almost identical commodities for export. In addition, they are, to some extent, victims of trade barriers and unfair competition through subsidies. This is a growing reality facing the developing countries today.

4. Moreover, due to their development conditions, the developing countries have also been greatly marginalized by the full swing of globalization. This situation has contributed to the worsening of disparity and the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor.

5. **Second, I think that we must do more, collectively and individually, to make South-South Cooperation work effectively.** Given the enormous challenges facing us at present, it is essential to ensure that the South-South Cooperation becomes more effective and more result-oriented. But, the question is, **“How can we do it?”**

6. In this regard, I think we need to take concerted actions on issues of significant interests to the South countries at major regional and international forums. Therefore, the **High Level Plenary Meeting** in New York in September, which will be devoted to the MDGs, would be an important test for us to have a common message to the industrialized nations on the adversity facing the developing countries.

7. In the context of South-South Cooperation, I am of the view that some countries, which have more possibilities—financial, experiences and human resources—should contribute more positively to the South-South Cooperation. I think that we, in the South, should set the example first before calling upon the developed nations. In this context, my delegation commends Qatar’s commitment of giving 15% of the prescribed percentage of its GDP as

development aid to the LDCs. I am also very pleased to say that Cambodia strongly supports His Highness the Emir of Qatar's proposal to establish "The South Fund for Development and Human

Circumstances", and welcomes the invaluable contributions from both Qatar and China to this Fund.

8. Moreover, if we, the developing countries, could establish some kind of organizations like OPEC for oil producers, to defend the prices of primary commodities, then it would be another great step forward to safeguard the common interests of the South.

9. With regard to the developed countries, I believe that we should welcome the decision of the G-8 countries to write off US\$40 billions of debt for the 18 developing countries. It is, of course, a very positive decision. But the debt cancellation should be fully extended to all LDCs, if one really wants them to move out of the "Heavily Indebted Poor Countries" (HIPC). Moreover, the developed world must respect their ODA commitments and undertake measures to improve market access and increase foreign direct investment in order to contribute to the economic development of the countries in the South.

10. Third, I think that our top priority today should focus on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. If we can realize the MDGs on a gradual basis, the countries in the South would be able to further advance their development to a higher plane. Nevertheless, to realize the MDGs in concrete terms will undoubtedly require not only commitment and political will, but, more importantly, sufficient resources. Therefore, during the **High Level Plenary Meeting** in New York, which will review the MDGs, Cambodia

believes it is vital that the Leaders of the South voice similar views on issues of common interests, particularly the implementation of the MDGs, in order to address the issue of concern to the developing countries and to avoid in the future of what I may call, “**the human security problem,**” which could be triggered off by hunger and, thus, it would become a serious problem for the whole world.

11. Fourth, on our coordination mechanism, I think we need to revitalize and rationalize the existing mechanism, particularly the “Inter-governmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries.” In this regard, I think that the committee should meet at least once a year so that it can assess the progress and monitor the implementation of the plan of action that we will adopt tomorrow. At the same time, I believe that the establishment of “sectoral working group” would help to boost our cooperation in various sectors.

Your Highness Emir, Chairman,

12. Finally, I wish to underline that we, in the South, will need to work together more closely and more efficiently to better advance our cause and defend our shared interests. The developing countries, I believe, in spite of their current development conditions, can, to some degree, contribute to the world economy, which must not be determined only by the developed nations alone. Therefore, we must join hands in ensuring that the developing nations should have a stronger voice in the economic and political decision-making in global affairs.

Thank you.