

Deputy Prime Minister



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE NAMIBIAN DELEGATION

DR. LIBERTINE AMATHILA,

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT

THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT

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Mr. Chairman,
Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al Thani,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my delegation and indeed on my own behalf, let me express my delight, Mr. Chairman, to see you presiding over the affairs of this Summit, and to express our full confidence that under your able guidance, we will achieve fruitful results at the end of our deliberations. Let me also, through you, express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the People and the Government of the State of Qatar, for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities accorded to us, since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

Mr. Chairman,

This Summit could not have taken place at a more opportune time. The Year 2005 is a crucial year for the international community in general and the developing countries in particular. Firstly, because we, the Group of 77 and China member states, are holding this historic Second South Summit to review progress in the implementation of the commitments we made during our First South Summit, held in Havana, Cuba in 2000.

Secondly, because, in September this year, the whole international community will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations, at which we the Heads of State and Government, will undertake a review on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

It is a cause of concern to note that, recent reports and studies indicate that many of us, in the developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa are lagging behind and are not likely to meet the MDGs and their targets, particularly that of halving poverty by 2015. However, all hope is not lost because we have the will, and the commitment to mobilize the resources necessary to help us meet these goals.

Against this background, Mr. Chairman, I am of the view that we, through South-South Cooperation, should contribute immensely to the achievement of the MDGs in our own countries. Therefore, just as we expect the donor community to change the way it deals with us, we the developing countries also need to seriously re-evaluate the way we do business amongst ourselves. There are many areas where we are better off cooperating with one another.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years we have adopted various declarations, plans of action and programs, aimed at promoting South-South Cooperation. At the First South Summit, for example, we adopted the Havana Declaration and Programme of Action, whereby we undertook to pursue a focused and action-oriented agenda, geared towards implementing a number of high priority initiatives within specific time frames. We have made progress in this regard, albeit modest.

Most, if not all the reasons for the founding of the Group of 77 in 1964 remains valid today. Some of the commitments made then remain unfulfilled, if anything, the challenges we face have been unfortunately compounded by new and emerging ones, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the numerous forces of globalization. This warrants even stronger unity of purpose, solidarity of action, and intensified cooperation, if we are to benefit from the opportunities that globalization presents.

Last year, the **World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization**, released its Report, which is well known to us here. The report contains recommendations that, if implemented, will put us in a better position, vis-à-vis globalization and its effects on our countries and peoples.

Since we are all in agreement as to what steps need to be taken in order to achieve our common goals through South-South cooperation, we should

forthwith, translate our commitments into action. Furthermore, we should strengthen regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives, such as the **AU, SADC and NEPAD**, to name but a few, as building blocks to strengthen and consolidate South- South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize and accept that the primary responsibility for our peoples lies with us. However, it is equally true that the international community is duty-bound to assist developing countries in their efforts. We urge them to honour the commitments they made at various international fora, such as the **International Conference on Financing for Development**, the **World Summit on Sustainable Development** and many others.

We take note of the Secretary-General's Report, entitled, "**In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All**" and the President of the General Assembly's **Draft Outcome Document for the 2005 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly**. We should therefore take advantage of this gathering to send a clear message, that cooperation for development remains central, to the September Summit.

Similarly, we expect a fair and equitable global trading system as well as the total cancellation of foreign debt for all developing countries. In this

sense, we welcome efforts being made by our development partners toward debt cancellation.

My delegation is pleased to note that the United Nations General Assembly has declared 19 December a UN Day for South-South Cooperation. It is also encouraging that the Assembly decided to include the **Perez - Guerrero Trust Fund** in the UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The UN and its membership should ensure that the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation is provided with adequate resources to facilitate South-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman

We therefore encourage those members of our Group that are relatively advanced to assist and share with those who lag behind in development. We must assist one another in areas such as the information and communication technology as well as health, especially in the fight against HIV/AIDS, in which some member countries of the G.77 and China have made significant progress. In this regard, I am pleased to note several projects on South-South Cooperation being undertaken, to enhance further cooperation among our countries. Namibia stands ready to play her part, where she can.

Finally Mr. Chairman, let me express my delegations confidence and conviction that the unity and solidarity, within which we always do our business shall prevail during our deliberations at this Summit.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman!