

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY HIS MAJESTY
THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN
OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
AT THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT FOR
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
DOHA
STATE OF QATAR**

15 – 16 JUNE 2005

Mr Chairman
Your Majesties
Your Highnesses
Your Excellencies

I wish to express my great appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and to the Government and People of Qatar for their gracious welcome, their kindness and their most generous hospitality. It is a great pleasure to be here.

I would also like to congratulate you and your people, Your Highness on the magnificent developments that are taking place in your country. I have much admired the confidence with which your people have met the challenges of the modern world. It is an example to us all.

I am sure this spirit will continue to be strongly reflected as Qatar plays its role in international affairs in the years ahead. So, I congratulate you and your people, Your Highness, and I thank you once more for bringing us all together.

I also take this opportunity to extend our deep appreciation to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Jamaica for his leadership as the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China and for his determined efforts in promoting our interests as developing countries.

Mr Chairman,

We, in Brunei Darussalam, were greatly encouraged when we attended the first South Summit in Havana five years ago. It did much to help us understand the nature of the special concerns felt by fellow developing nations. In no small measure, it served to bring us closer to our colleagues in the South.

Since then, it has greatly enhanced the scope of our bilateral relations and given a much clearer focus to many of our discussions. In particular, I believe many of the extremely important goals set out at the Millennium Summit owed their origin to the common understandings reached by leaders of the South.

We are more clearly aware now of our collective interests and what we understand by genuine international cooperation. There is, of course, much that still has to be achieved in practical terms.

But I believe a good foundation of unity and solidarity was laid down in Havana. It has made us far better placed than before to work successfully with our colleagues in the fully industrialized world.

At this second Summit, I believe we are in a position to address our concerns with much greater insight. We are in a far better position than before to consider the great issues that have emerged from globalization, the growth of science and technology and the concept of South-South Cooperation.

We have had five years of valuable experience to learn from. We have acquired confidence in a rapidly growing body of experts, thinkers and researchers drawn from our own countries. We have clearer understandings of the barriers that still stand in the way of the development we seek, whether they be social, political, economic, commercial or structural.

In other words, Mr Chairman, I believe we have made progress. I am therefore optimistic. In spite of many regular setbacks, I believe that the past five years has seen the South increase its significance as a united force in world affairs.

This September's Summit in New York will, of course, test this statement profoundly. It will present a more searching and detail review. I am looking forward to its results.

My main hope is that the discussions about United Nations reform that are currently gathering momentum around the world will move far beyond purely political negotiations. If this is to happen, much will depend on agreements we reach as leaders of the South. These should be the core of any reform. Only then will the people of the South see the United Nations as the means for them to secure equitable development.

This is why we in Brunei Darussalam are approaching the High Level Plenary Meeting in September in a spirit of openness. We are seeking to contribute whatever we can to ensuring that the Summit will help achieve strong and purposeful consensus, in particular in our efforts to place development at the center of international concerns.

In this, we place great importance not only on solidarity among our colleagues in the South, but also in the ability of all of us to work constructively with the nations of the North.

The first, reflects the essential need to hear from our fellow developing nations, work with them in whatever way we can and, in doing so, help to safeguard the unity of the South. This we regard as the essence of South-South cooperation.

At the same time, we see an equally important need to work closely and successfully with the developed nations. We believe it is therefore vital that solidarity among developing nations be a firm platform on which to conduct relations with the North.

Mr Chairman,

We owe much of this approach to the invaluable experience we had working alongside our colleagues from the South since the first Summit in Havana. I feel sure that we are all committed to the goals we all share and together we are working towards achieving them.

In this regard, I am especially happy to be here in Doha as we are witness to the achievement of His Highness the Emir's long-term vision, sheer dedication and unrelenting endeavour. It will offer us all an equally invaluable source of inspiration.

Wabillahit Taufeq Wal-Hidayah Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh

Thank you.