

Statement by
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At the General Debate on
Development Challenges Facing the South
With Special Reference to
The High-level Plenary Meeting of
The 60th Session of the General Assembly

The Second South Summit
Doha, 15-16 June 2005

Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to attend this Summit. May I convey the warmest greetings and best wishes of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Your Highness, as well as to all the Leaders of the Group of 77 and China who are here present.

President Yudhoyono wanted very much to join you here personally, but in view of the need for his presence in the country, it has not been possible for him to attend this Summit. I am therefore addressing this august gathering on his behalf.

Let me begin by thanking the Government and people of the State of Qatar for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this meeting. May I also congratulate Jamaica on its assumption of the chairmanship of our Group.

The convening of this second South Summit signals our shared commitment to fostering South-South cooperation for development. I trust that our meeting will lead to concerted action that will help accelerate the growth of our national economies and enhance our collective self-reliance.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many have claimed that five years after the adoption of the Havana Declaration and its Plan of Action during the first South Summit held in Havana, Cuba, from 10-14 April 2000, the gap between the rich and the poor countries is widening rather than narrowing. As a matter of fact, the problems of poverty and lack of development with all its related problems continue to exist.

The Second South Summit today must be able to address these problems, and we need to establish an effective strategy to deal with our predicament. South-South cooperation should be able to help developing countries cope with the problems of hunger, poverty and human catastrophe.

In this connection, we would like to welcome the initiative of His Highness Emir of the State of Qatar to set up the "South Fund for Development and Human Circumstances" and appreciate his donation of US\$ 20 million to this fund.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a reality that many developing countries have limited resources and funds to pursue their national development. To alleviate poverty and promote economic development we have to start it by putting our own house in order. Good governance will obviously enhance public accountability and create a strong assurance for funds availability and the effective use of our limited resources to promote national development.

Good governance and accountability should grow naturally from within rather than being imposed as conditionality from others. The success of promoting good governance and democracy at home will ensure the existence of credible voice of developing countries as they claim for democratic process at the international level.

Among countries of the South, there are those who are in the position to lend their helping hands. Sharing crucial expertise and knowledge as well as best practices and experience among developing countries is an important component to ensure the success of South-South cooperation.

Moreover, in order to attain our common goals, we must take advantage of the existing cooperation mechanisms among countries of the South. This includes sub-regional and regional cooperation such as ASEAN and NEPAD, as well as inter-regional cooperation such as "the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership" (NAASP) established in Jakarta during the recent Asia-Africa Summit.

We should also utilise various centres of excellence that provide technical assistance to developing countries such as the South Centre, and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) established at the initiative of Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia in 1995. Since then NAM CSSTC has pursued various programmes to build up capacities for accelerated and sustained socio-economic growth in developing countries. It has also amply demonstrated how the triangular modality for cooperation can work effectively through its collaboration with such organizations as the UN Environment Programme, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South relations. In fact they are complementary as our collective effort to respond effectively to globalization and deepening interdependence. We are of the view that North-South relations should be developed on the basis of partnership characterized by mutual benefit and respect.

The Group of 77 and China represents the majority of the international community and UN member countries. As a negotiating body of countries of the South, the Group should play a vital role in dealing with the North. For this, we must enhance our negotiating capacity and be actively involved in the economic decision making process in the multilateral organizations.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our summit today provides us with the opportunity to address the issues that will be taken up at the High-level Plenary of the 60th General Assembly this coming September.

There has been a rising concern that issues related to peace and security may overshadow the core issues of development. On this we must make a strong stand—that there can be neither true peace nor real security without development.

Development must remain at the top of the United Nations agenda. Within the decade ahead of us, we must attain the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals so that the eradication of poverty would be achieved in 2015, and the teeming millions of people will finally enjoy one of the most fundamental of human rights—the right to development.

The South should also enhance its dialogue and cooperation with the North. This will include, in particular, the fulfilment of the commitments of countries of the North to increase Official Development Assistance to 0,7% by 2015, as well as the imperative for just and fair international trade within the framework of WTO.

In this regard, we welcome the decision of the G-8 countries for debt relief of 18 HIPC's (Highly Indebted Poor Countries). We hope that all HIPC's would become eligible for such assistance.

As to the UN reform, we believe that it should include strengthening of the role of the UNGA as a global parliament, as well as other UN bodies and agencies, particularly ECOSOC as the main body to address economic and development issues.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If our policies are coordinated on any issue and if we speak with one voice, the world will give us a hearing.

Many of us are poor countries, but if we succeed in pooling our resources and capabilities, the wealth that we can produce will be sufficiently enormous to banish the basic problem of poverty from the face of the earth.

Today we can begin our common endeavour. Within a decade, God willing, we can accomplish it.

Thank You.