

Statement by
Luis Fernando Jaramillo
Convenor of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

at the Second South Summit
Doha, 16 June 2005

Excellencies,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguishes Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to address with a few brief words this historic second South Summit here in Doha and to convey to you the greetings of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Chairman of the South Centre Board who regrets that he was not able to be present in person at this historic gathering of the heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China..

I wish first of all to take this opportunity to thank those speakers in the general debate who addressed the very kind words to the South Centre. I wish also to thank all the G77 Member States for having given recognition to the Centre's work in the main document of the Summit, and for having called for strengthening of support to this institution in its further development and future work, including the work entrusted to the Centre by the Summit itself.

Indeed, for all of those engaged in the work of the Centre, and especially for the staff of its secretariat, this represents a major compliment and compensation for their efforts and political commitment.

For me personally, and for a few others who have been involved in the birth of the Centre and in the first ten years of its development as an intergovernmental institution, this represents a genuine satisfaction and confirmation of the fact that our attempt to initiate and sustain the process of building an institution for South-South cooperation at the global level was not just a dream of Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and of the South Commission, when they recommended the creation of such an institution in its seminal report "The Challenge to the South".

Mr. Chairman,

It is the Centre's products and activities that have made possible this public recognition of its institutional existence and the growing political support that it is enjoying today.

One of the major concerns of the countries of the South is the manner and the speed of South's integration into the world economy and the process of globalization. Central in this process is the unfolding multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. In the early years there was very little awareness of the full implications of trade liberalization under WTO. Now the South is much more aware,

and the South Centre has done its part in creating this consciousness, and in developing the South's negotiating capacity.

But, much more needs to be done. The South is involved in a ceaseless battle to project the development agenda on institutions such as WTO and WIPO. We are gaining ground, but we need more human and financial resources from the South in order to bring a measure of unity and common understanding, and thus intellectual and negotiating empowerment for developing countries on the issues being negotiated in these organizations.

The development agenda is very broad and covers a large number of areas, as the proceedings of this Summit have shown. All of them are of critical importance and all of them are interrelated in the global context. Trade and development, and intellectual property regimes on which the South Centre concentrates its limited resources are only part of a larger picture. Thus, we intend to initiate regular work in other important areas where we have been active in the past, but on an ad hoc basis, such as science and technology for development, financing for development and monetary issues, information society, sustainable development, health and development, and so on. We are also in the process of launching of the South Portal on Information, Knowledge and Empowerment (S.P.I.K.E.), an innovative experiment of placing internet in the service of promoting South-South cooperation.

Our ability to do so will depend on the availability of regular and adequate funding for this purpose. Securing such resources which are needed to initiate sustained work in these critical areas represents a challenge for the next stage of Centre's institutional consolidation. We are confident that we shall succeed, in part because the Centre has earned a degree of confidence and trust among the governments and its larger constituency in the South, as well as among the many interested supportive donors in the North. More importantly, South-South cooperation is coming of age in all domains of development activity and the demand for the products and activities such as those generated by the Centre is going only to increase.

I am thus confident, when the South Summit convenes again five years from now, the South Centre would have grown further and diversified its activities and services to the South. In part this will depend on the financial and political support that will be provided by all of our countries represented in this room to this still fledgling institutional experiment, as we all realize that adequate institutional support is essential for our collective action.

Mr. Chairman and Representatives of Member States of G77 and China,

I am optimistic that such support will be forthcoming and that the South Centre will be given an opportunity to fulfill its potential.

Thank You.