

**GENEVA CHAPTER REPORT
GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA CHAPTER'S MEETING
AMBASSADOR MIGUEL CARBO BENITES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR TO THE WTO AND
OTHER ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA
PRESIDENT OF THE GENEVA CHAPTER**

Ambassador Mahmoud Hassan Elamin, President of the Vienna Chapter and host of this meeting.

Presidents of the Group of 77 and China Chapters
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor for me to represent the Geneva chapter in this meeting of the Group of 77 and China chapters. I would like to start by thanking Ambassador Elamin for having organized this meeting, as well as the liaison office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, especially Mrs. Heuls, for its preparation.

The Geneva chapter expected the realization of this meeting with high interest. As it has already been mentioned several times, the commemoration in 2014 of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Group of 77 and China is an opportunity that will allow us to revitalize the principles and objectives for which the group was created, and to strengthen the synergies between the different chapters.

Regarding the report of activities of the Geneva chapter, I will start mentioning that I have been coordinating it since January 2013. That is why the first part of this report will be devoted to the activities undertaken by the chapter under the chairmanship of

Indonesia, in the year 2012, and then I will summarize the activities organized under the current chairmanship and the projects that will be implemented later in this year.

During 2012, the most significant activity for the group was the participation in UNCTAD XIII, held in Doha, Qatar, in April. The preparatory work and the negotiation itself were extremely complex, especially because of the unwillingness shown by developed countries not only to explore new fields of cooperation, but even to reaffirm their prior commitments. That is why one of the greatest achievements of the conference was to force developed countries to reaffirm the commitments they had made in Accra, four years ago.

In November 2012, a course for delegates of the chapter was organized, with the collaboration of UNCTAD, the South Centre and UNITAR. This course had a wide participation and permits to capacitate delegates in international negotiations, which is a matter of vital importance in the daily work they do in Geneva.

The handing-over ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Geneva chapter was held on January 17, 2013, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Executive Director of the South Centre. In my inaugural statement I indicated that the priority activities of the Ecuadorian chairmanship, in addition to the daily coordination tasks in the framework of UNCTAD, would be concentrated on two elements:

- The first activity was to organize an Ambassadorial-level retreat of the Geneva chapter, which would be useful to develop a work program to prepare the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the group and UNCTAD, as well as to

generate a strategy for the Geneva chapter to participate in the preparation of the post-2015 development framework.

- The second initiative will be to organize a course for delegates of the Geneva chapter, in the third quarter of 2013, following the decision taken at the Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 and China on the occasion of UNCTAD XIII.

I have the honor to report that the Ambassadorial-level retreat was held on May 6, 2013 and was attended by representatives of sixty members of the group, as well as the Secretary General of UNCTAD and representatives of the South Centre. In it, we had a look of the most relevant topics for the Geneva chapter in the next two years, namely:

1. Preparation for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the G-77 and China.
2. Preparation for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD.
3. Possible contribution of the chapter to the generation of the post-2015 development framework.
4. Initiatives to strengthen synergies with the other Chapters of the G-77 and China.

Each of the subjects were analyzed in depth and led to a series of initiatives that could be implemented in the short and medium term, which I summarize below:

For the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the G-77 and China, the group decided to focus its efforts on preparing a retrospective publication of the first fifty years of the group, which will be released next year and on undertaking an update of

the Development Platform of Geneva, which constitutes the conceptual basis that guides the actions of the chapter.

With regard to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNCTAD, which will also take place next year, the group decided to request the Secretariat of UNCTAD to work on two elements: first, a comprehensive compendium of development thinking from the perspective of the organization, and, second, specific proposals for new development goals that could be adopted in 2015.

Given that these issues must be decided jointly by all the regional groups that constitute UNCTAD, the President of the Trade and Development Board, the regular organ that leads this organization, has launched a process of consultations with all groups to find a consensus proposal to define the issues that may be addressed on that occasion.

As for the possible contribution of the chapter to the generation of the post-2015 development framework, we started acknowledging that this process is taking place mainly in New York, but organizations such UNCTAD have an active participation in it through the task force established by the Secretary General of the United Nations. In that context, the chapter would seek to make its contributions through organizations based in Geneva, but in permanent coordination with the other chapters of the G-77 and China.

Finally, with regard to strengthening the synergies between chapters of the G-77 and China, it was decided that the Geneva chapter could work in it through the following initiatives, among others:

- To request the UNCTAD Secretariat to appoint an official engaged exclusively in following the most important issues for the Geneva chapter being carried in other chapters.
- To conduct regular videoconferences: once every four months in order to follow the main themes of work within each chapter that may be of interest to the other chapters.
- Develop a section on the joint website of the G-77 and China where there will be an update of the main themes of work within each chapter that may be of interest to the other chapters.

These were the main outcomes of the Ambassadorial-level retreat of the Geneva chapter.

As for the course for the delegates of the chapter, Ecuador is currently coordinating with UNITAR and other organizations to develop a two-day high-level seminar, which will be held during the third quarter of this year.

Finally, I have to inform that during the first months of this year was developed the selection process of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Two weeks ago, it was reported that the United Nations Secretary-General had decided to propose to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, from Kenya, to fill this important position.

In this regard, I must highlight the close coordination followed with the New York chapter, to ensure that the process of selection of this high dignity respects the criteria that have been agreed by UNCTAD member, in the sense that its Secretary General must

belong to a developing country, based on a regional rotation mechanism.

Having said that, it is not my intention to further extend this presentation. I will end at this point, but I am available for any request of clarification.

Thank you very much.