



Statement

by

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and
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at the

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of the Group of 77 and China**

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I am honored to participate at this milestone summit gathering of the developing world in my capacity as the United Nations advocate for the most vulnerable members of the international community. I thank wholeheartedly the Government and people of Qatar for organizing and for inviting me to the Second South Summit as well as for the warm hospitality extended to us in this beautiful and shining city of Doha. I am confident that with the forward-looking leadership provided by Qatar as the Chair of the Group of 77 and China last year and now as the host country for this second five-yearly South Summit has set the scene for an engaged development dialogue and for a successful outcome. It is also pertinent to note that the Summit is taking place within two weeks of the very successful fourteenth session of the UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in New York.

At the historic first South Summit in Havana in 2000, the world leaders expressed concern for the increased marginalization of in particular the Least Developed Countries. It called on the international community to take a number of concrete steps to help these most disadvantaged countries. Since that time, the global development agenda has been advanced by the renewed commitment of the international community to support the determined struggle for development of the most vulnerable countries. The 2001 Brussels Programme for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the 2003 Almaty Programme for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and this year's Mauritius Strategy for the Small Island developing States (SIDS) have been adopted aimed at building partnership for poverty reduction and better integration of these countries in the globalizing world economy. These countries together add up to as many as 90, constituting nearly half of the UN membership and sixty percent of the G-77 and China. Their universally-recognized structural, economic, social, environmental and institutional vulnerability make these countries the most deserving in the renewed effort to expand South-South cooperation. As majority of these countries are in Africa and noting that 34 out of 50 LDCs are in that continent, the region should obviously get our particular attention, more so as NEPAD, steered by the African Union, is emerging as a key framework for South-South cooperation.

Cooperation among developing countries is changing the landscape of international relations, particularly in trade, financial flows and regional integration. Some developing countries are today important markets, becoming significant investors in or suppliers of technology, producers of medicinal drugs and providers of technical assistance and financial aid. A number of developing countries are extending training facilities and educational scholarships to thousands of nationals of fellow developing countries, many of whom belong to the most vulnerable countries. Current trends in international trade and investment liberalization as well as the increasing regional and economic integration offer new opportunities and challenges for South-South cooperation. South-South trade has been growing at 11 percent a year for the past decade, with trade in services also registering a rise. Africa's trade with Asia, for example, almost tripled from \$6 billion to nearly \$18 billion in the last decade. In the last few years, South-South trade came to represent approximately 40% of the trade of developing countries.

It is worth recognizing that the international community has been according -- and more so in recent years -- an increasing importance to South-South cooperation, particularly as reflected in the outcome of major United Nations and other global conferences and summits. The UN system organizations have also been strengthening their support to enhance such cooperation, including through triangular cooperation mechanism. Recognition by UNDP's policy-making body to include South-South cooperation as one of six drivers of development effectiveness is a useful example for the entire United Nations system in mainstreaming that approach. That way UNDP

country offices become even more involved in supporting South-South cooperation by encouraging and supporting national and sub regional level initiatives. Here I would like to emphasize that the UNDP's SSC Special Unit plays a significant institutional role for the promotion, management and coordination of South-South cooperation. The Unit should also expand its catalytic role attracting triangular cooperation modalities involving international organizations, targeting on the least developed, landlocked and small island countries.

The Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs has called upon developing countries to promote South-South initiatives in favor of LDCs. The Programme identified some important areas of cooperation that include building human and productive capacity, technical assistance and exchange of best practices particularly in areas related to health, education, trade, investment, environment, training, transit transport cooperation and technology. The Programme also emphasized that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South cooperation but a complement and encouraged the use of triangular mechanisms through financing by one or more donor countries.

Let me cite some good efforts. In promoting South-South cooperation for achieving food security, the FAO Special Programme for Food Security provides experts from developing countries to work with farmers in LDC rural communities. To strengthen investment cooperation among developing countries, especially in favor of LDCs, UNCTAD created a technical cooperation project called Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) negotiations. International Trade Centre (ITC) 'matchmaking' programmes are of major significance in building South-South partnerships through triangular mechanism that benefits LDCs.

The Almaty Programme of Action for LLDCs calls for the further promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors. In fact, the Almaty Programme is primarily based on cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries in order to implement the Programme's objectives relating to fundamental transit policy issues as well as the priorities relating to infrastructure development and maintenance.

The Mauritius Strategy in respect of the SIDS categorically states that South-South cooperation is critical at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels in investment, capacity-building, disaster management, environment, food, agriculture, oceans, water, energy, health and education. Within this framework, SIDS-SIDS cooperation has acquired considerable significance.

Based on their real developmental needs, South-South cooperation should be built as an integral part of the international community's support to the countries in special needs. A growing number of institutions with excellent standards of education and outstanding capacities and expertise in areas of health, manufacturing, hi-tech industries and ICT, as well as research and development exist today in the South. These countries have the means and the resources to further promote South-South cooperation to support the disadvantaged countries. In recent years, such cooperation is being promoted actively in areas ranging from health - more specifically in the fight against HIV/AIDS, capacity development, trade and agriculture to economic infrastructure, debt cancellation, population, disaster mitigation, governance and democratic institutions building and sharing of technology. Regional cooperation and greater market opportunities among developing countries in general, and with the most vulnerable countries in particular, appear to be key factors for the expansion of South-South trade. This is also finding increasing reflection in the cooperation frameworks of

the regional and sub-regional organizations of Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America-Caribbean.

It is important to recognize the linkage between South-South cooperation with the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially with regard to poverty reduction efforts and social development, including raising the status of women. It is important to tie South-South agenda with the MDGs through mechanisms for more effective implementation of policies, agreements and action plans, with special emphasis on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Island developing States and Africa in general.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that keeping in focus the special needs of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and the implementation of their respective Programmes of Action, there is urgent need for the developing countries to give particular attention to the following six areas in order to:

1. Remove all existing tariff and non-tariff barriers to their markets for the products of LDCs and support LDCs to overcome their supply-side constraints.
2. Facilitate and improve transit transport by all modes of communications for LLDCs.
3. Increase foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, particularly to build infrastructure and expand export capacity.
4. Double the present technical assistance as well as training, research and educational facilities and scholarships provided to the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
5. Provide greater support to the social sector development in the LDCs with special attention to health focusing on HIV/AIDS, education, population issues and women's empowerment.
6. Cooperate in establishing food security for the LDCs

Let me conclude on a note of positivism. While effective wide-ranging South-South cooperation has the potential of contributing to a balanced and equitable development cooperation, such cooperation can also enhance significantly the development prospects of the most vulnerable countries of the world. The Doha Summit's outcome will be worthwhile as it appropriately addresses the special needs of these weakest segments of the humanity.
