



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY H.E. MR. AHMAD BIN ABDULLA AL-MAHMOUD, STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MEMBER OF THE CABINET OF THE STATE OF QATAR, AT THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF ECOSOC, 2004 HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT ON "RESOURCES MOBILIZATION AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010" (New York, 29 June 2004)

Madam President,

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to congratulate you on behalf of the Group of 77 and China for the exemplary and able manner in which you steer the works of the ECOSOC towards the achievement of the laid-out objectives of this session which is convened in the context of discussing the issues related to resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

On this occasion, I would like to present on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, our sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the comprehensive report he submitted to the high level segment of this session in which he laid out the principal plans for the ECOSOC joint work in the area of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the mentioned decade.

Madam President,

The importance of this session stems from the fact that, it has been convened in the context of the implementation of the goals and the commitments made at the major UN summits and conferences for LDCs including the Programme of Action for the Decade on the assistance for these countries. In this regard, the Group of 77 and China welcomes the positive steps through which the ECOSOC urges the specialized agencies of the UN system and the relevant multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Declaration and the Brussels Programme of Action into their programmes of work and in any other steps undertaken by them at the intergovernmental level. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes the necessity of taking further initiatives based on the enhancement of cooperation between LDCs and other countries at regional and international levels, and through the establishment of effective mechanisms to assess the economic and social performance in LDCs, as well as to monitor the implementation of the commitments contained in the Programme of Action, along with the need to review and follow up the performance of the mechanism of implementation and policy developments and to assess the extent of the effect such mechanisms and policy may reflect on the course of the implementation of the programme of assistance for LDCs.

Madam President,

The Group of 77 and China attaches paramount importance to the implementation of the measures contained in the Brussels Programme of Action and putting such measures into tangible deeds and in coherence with the national development policy framework of the LDCs in an effort to eradicate poverty and to achieve socio-economic development in LDCs. The ECOSOC, pursuant to the broad mandate entrusted to it, can play a major role in mobilizing the international potentials and exploring the best avenues for the implementation of the goals laid out in the Brussels Programme of Action and addressing the challenges that hinder the achievement of the objectives contained therein, in a timely manner.

The Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 embodies a global commitment to address widespread poverty in LDCs, through the mobilization of greater domestic and international resources for meeting the goals of development in LDCs and addressing the structural challenges these countries face, domestically, and constraints to their effective participation in the global economy.

Madam President,

While welcoming some improvement in terms of ODA flows to the LDCs, and the initiatives made to enhance global markets access for LDCs exports, the Group of 77 and China believes that the prospects of such improvement will fall short in light of the persistently negligible share of LDCs in world trade, the insufficient FDI flows, the overreliance on basic commodities and the limited external debt relief which together, have posed challenges to the achievement of sustainable economic growth in LDCs. Therefore, the Member States of the Group of 77 and China reaffirm the

significance of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Conference.

Madam President,

The achievement of the goals laid out in the Brussels Programme of Action requires the implementation of the commitments made by the LDCs and their development partners in terms of building human and institutional capacities, fostering a people-centered policy framework, promoting good governance, building productive capacities and mobilizing more financial resources, through the private trust funds and from external sources other than the budget, as well as multiplying the basic resources, especially for Africa where the majority of countries is LDCs. The problem of a high level of external indebtedness continues to hinder economic performance in many LDCs, as debt services payments drain the limited development resources in these countries.

From this perspective, the Group of 77 and China emphasizes the necessity of assisting the LDCs to take some necessary measures in order to meet the goals set out in the Brussels Programme of Action and, in the meantime, commends the sincere efforts by the office of the High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Countries and Small Developing Island States (SDIS) towards conducting numerous consultations with LDCs, and their national partners from civil society and the private sector as well as multilateral organizations and donors, for exploring the best avenues to further the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action.

Madam President,

While recognizing the responsibility of LDCs for articulating and following up their development strategies, the Group of 77 and China, meanwhile acknowledges the importance of promoting genuine development partnerships including with civil society and the private sector. Such partnerships are considered one of the important steps towards removing the obstacles that challenge the implementation of the decade programme of action for LDCs.

In this context, and in coherence with the spirit of the Brussels Programme of Action the Group of 77 and China urges donor countries to continue their efforts in terms of providing free market access to the products of LDCs, removing tariff barriers and clearing the way for these countries to compete with others on an equal footing. The Member States of the Group of 77 and China underscore the significance of the continuation, by donor countries, of according the LDCs the technological and technical support including other resources necessary for assisting LDCs to meet the goals of the Brussels Programme of Action.

Madam President,

The Group of 77 and China spares no efforts in supporting the international endeavours to assist the countries emerging from armed conflicts, ensuring external debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries and increasing FDI flows in consistence with the international initiatives taken in these areas in addition to creating an enabling environment with peaceful solutions of conflicts and respect for internationally recognized human rights including the right to development.

I would, also, like to take this opportunity to underscore the importance of the active and effective participation of the Group of 77 and China in the negotiations related to the integrated and coordinated review of the implementation and follow-up to the major UN summits and conferences including the Brussels Programme of Action, for assisting the LDCs to eradicate poverty and to achieve economic growth for their people.

Madam President,

Least developed countries continue to face numerous challenges in mobilizing resources for poverty eradication, and for the overall implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. To ensure the success of the international endeavours towards addressing such challenges, it would be necessary for the member states and other partners to reinforce their political will vis-a-vis the implementation of the governmental commitments and the initiatives of partnerships, through enhancing the channels of cooperation among the UN agencies, Bretton Woods institutions and World Trade Organization.

In closing, I assure you, Madam President, of the perseverance of the Group of 77 and China towards the realization of the goals and the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action, which are, undoubtedly, envisioned by the Group as instrumental, practical and conducive to the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the people in developing countries and LDCs in terms of poverty eradication and the achievement of economic and social development.

Thank you, Madam President.

