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Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

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Human resources management

Letter dated 30 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-eighth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2014 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 30, 35, 36, 40, 44, 60, 62, 67, 68, 77, 115, 120, 121, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136 and 137.

(Signed) Sacha Sergio **Llorentty Solíz**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations
Chair of the Group of 77

**Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2014 from the
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-eighth annual
meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members
of the Group of 77**

New York, 26 September 2014

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China met in New York on 26 September 2014 for the thirty-eighth annual meeting of Ministers, under the chairmanship of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
2. The Ministers recalled the successful convening of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014. They expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for hosting the Summit and reaffirmed their commitment to working towards the full implementation of the Declaration entitled “For a new world order for living well”.
3. The Ministers welcomed the joint communiqué of the Presidents of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as of the Group of 77 in New York and other Group of 77 chapters, on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77, adopted in Algiers on 30 May 2014. Ministers also welcomed the convening by Algeria, in partnership with the Presidents of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Presidents of the Group of 77, of the second meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee at the ministerial level, to be held in New York on 26 September 2015, to mark the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organization, as well as the sixtieth anniversary of the Bandung Declaration.
4. The Ministers welcomed the Algiers appeal on a global partnership for development through renewed international cooperation, adopted by the high-level panel of eminent personalities of the South convened in Algiers on 30 May 2014.
5. The Ministers noted the initiative announced by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma, during the Summit of the Group of 77 to establish the Institute for South-South Integration and his offer to host the Institute in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. They requested the Chair of the Group of 77 in New York to undertake consultations on this initiative with the States members and to report at the next annual ministerial meeting on the outcome of such consultations for appropriate follow-up action.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, recognized the importance, different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirmed their view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and

independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

7. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterate their support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. They reiterated the position of the Group that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirm that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavour of developing countries based on the principle of solidarity and premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historical and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations. As such, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document. In this context, they stress that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. Thus, South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement, as envisioned by the Second South Summit.

8. The Ministers stressed that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly was the central multilateral policymaking body in the United Nations system for reviewing and assessing global and system-wide progress and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and providing overall guidance on future directions.

9. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and requested the establishment of a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives, as well as sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various funds, agencies and organizations in support of South-South and triangular cooperation.

10. The Ministers firmly affirmed that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals should be preserved in its entirety and should not be renegotiated. In this sense, they stressed that the report should be the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development also mandates.

11. The Ministers underscored the importance of understanding poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, and in this regard reaffirmed the need to end poverty in all its forms.

12. Recalling the statement made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, the Ministers emphasized that poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. The Ministers strongly supported the view that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty by 2030.

13. The Ministers underlined the need for a coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda, which should reinforce the commitment of the international

community to poverty eradication and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner with the contributions of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, the financing for development process, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the process to develop options for a United Nations technology facilitation mechanism and other relevant processes.

14. The Ministers reaffirmed that the post-2015 development agenda must fully adhere to the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

15. The Ministers underscored the importance of strengthening the global partnership for development, to be based on quantified and time-bound targets, consistent with Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the post-2015 development agenda. North-South cooperation remains the core of this partnership, and South-South and triangular cooperation are a useful complement to North-South cooperation. Strengthened commitment from developed countries is therefore required to enhance international cooperation and scale up support for developing countries. They emphasized the need for developed countries to urgently fulfil the official development assistance (ODA) commitments that they had made, individually and collectively, including the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to ODA by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to ODA for the least developed countries.

16. The Ministers emphasized that the post-2015 development agenda must meaningfully address issues of reform of the institutions of global economic governance in order to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in decision-making in these institutions. They also noted that the global economic, financial and trading systems remained imbalanced, to the disadvantage of developing countries, and in this regard they stressed the importance of identifying in the post-2015 development agenda the weaknesses and imbalances of these global systems and of proposing actions for improvement with the aim of supporting the development agenda and the programmes of developing countries.

17. The Ministers also stressed the importance for the post-2015 development agenda, if it is to be global in nature and universally applicable to all, to fully respect the development policy space of developing countries to make use of policy tools and measures that are required to implement their policies for poverty eradication and other development plans and programmes. They also stressed that the post-2015 development agenda should promote rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth in developing countries as a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and reducing inequalities within and among countries.

18. The Ministers reaffirmed the centrality and primacy of the intergovernmental outcomes as the basis for the post-2015 development agenda.

19. The Ministers reiterated the need for a strong preparatory process leading to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. The Ministers expressed their determination to achieve an ambitious outcome document, given the need to review the progress in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate

and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify the obstacles encountered to the achievement of the goals therein and actions to overcome these constraints, and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

20. The Ministers affirmed that technology was a key means of implementation and the most important lever of change for achieving sustainable development. Without a breakthrough in international cooperation in the field of technology, shifting to a more sustainable path would be very difficult and burdensome for developing countries.

21. In this regard, the Ministers recalled the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, relevant General Assembly resolutions, and reports of the Secretary-General related to the possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and welcomed the convening of four structured dialogues of the General Assembly to consider those arrangements and present recommendations in this regard, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism.

22. The Ministers welcomed the summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly of the discussion and recommendations that emerged from the four structured dialogues on the possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism. The Ministers emphasized the importance of continuing consultations in this regard with the aim of reaching a conclusion at the sixty-ninth session in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

23. The Ministers stressed the need to develop an enabling international environment to allow each and every country to pursue development objectives according to its own priorities with policies of its own choice. The Ministers reaffirmed that this should be the strategic objective of the post-2015 development agenda and should be the transformational change that they were aiming to produce: developing an international enabling environment for sustainable development by addressing the questions of trade, reform of the international financial system, global economic governance, debt, repatriation of illicit funds and cooperation in the fields of finance and technology, in order to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustainable development.

24. The Ministers stressed in this regard that all countries should assume their common but differentiated responsibilities and warned that outsourcing these responsibilities to the private sector or civil society was not acceptable and should not replace a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development.

25. The Ministers highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction, as it had a direct impact on achieving sustainable development, especially in developing countries. They reaffirmed their support for the international efforts to develop the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, or the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2”, to be adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. They stressed that enhancing international cooperation on implementation of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies, in particular in developing countries, should be a crucial element in the post-2015 framework.

26. The Ministers affirmed the need to reform the international financial architecture so that the financial and monetary system reflects the realities of the twenty-first century, including a properly regulated international financial sector that reduces and discourages speculative investment, in order for capital markets to be mobilized to achieve sustainable development and play a constructive role in the global development agenda.

27. The Ministers urged that the reform process of the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions be finalized as soon as possible and be much more ambitious, and that an accelerated plan be established for further reforms in representation, participation and parity of voting power for developing countries in the decision-making process within the Bretton Woods institutions, in all discussions on international monetary reform and in the operation of the new arrangements for special drawing rights in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on the basis of criteria that truly reflect its mandate in the field of development and with the participation of all stakeholders in an equitable, transparent, consultative and inclusive process. In this regard, they called upon the General Assembly to launch a process to reform the international financial and monetary system.

28. The Ministers called for the urgent completion of the 2010 reform of the IMF quota formula in order to ensure that the quotas and governance of IMF better reflect the relative weight of emerging and developing countries in the global economy. However, the redistribution of voting rights to reflect reality alone will not resolve the structural problems of financial instability and the lack of liquidity for developing countries in need to generate the necessary sustainable growth and development. In addition, the reform should encompass liquidity creation, including improvement in the special drawing rights for developing countries. IMF must provide more comprehensive and flexible financial responses to the needs of developing countries without imposing procyclical conditionalities and while respecting their need for adequate policy space. Furthermore, leading personnel of the Bretton Woods institutions must be designated on the basis of their individual merits, through an open and fair process of selection. As long as IMF does not reflect the new realities in the global economy and its Director General is designated through a process that lacks any transparency, its legitimacy will remain questionable.

29. The Ministers recalled that sovereign debt management had been a crucial issue for developing countries in past decades and recent years. Recently, a new concern relating to the activities of vulture funds has emerged. Recent examples of the actions of vulture funds in international courts have revealed their highly speculative nature. Such funds pose a risk to all future debt restructuring processes, both for developing and developed countries. They therefore stressed the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt restructuring efforts of developing countries and stressed that these funds should not supersede a State's right to protect its people under international law.

30. The Ministers welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [68/304](#), entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes", in particular the decision to elaborate and adopt, through a process of intergovernmental negotiations, as a matter of priority during its sixty-ninth session, a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes with a view, inter alia, to increasing the efficiency, stability

and predictability of the international financial system and achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities. The Ministers renewed their determination to define the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the adoption of the text of the multilateral legal framework at the main part of its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014.

31. The Ministers reiterated that progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda would depend on progress in creating a pro-development, international enabling environment and delivering the relevant means of implementation, which include financial resources, technology development and transfer on concessionary and preferential terms, capacity-building and pro-development trade and economic policies. These means of implementation must be supported by actions from developed countries at the international level, such as quantitative, time-bound financing targets besides those established for ODA.

32. The Ministers underscored the important role of ODA in leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives.

33. The Ministers reaffirmed that ODA remained the main source of international financing for many developing countries and that it was essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with paragraph 246 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.

34. The Ministers recalled paragraph 142 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration, and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard. They affirmed the importance of taking advantage of the use of TRIPS flexibilities in order to promote people’s health and access to medicines. They called upon developed countries to fully respect the right of developing countries to make full use of TRIPS flexibilities and to refrain from taking actions, including trade measures, to prevent or dissuade developing countries from exercising this right.

35. The Ministers recalled the outcome of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, and stressed the importance of implementing all aspects of the Bali package in a balanced manner through an inclusive negotiating process in which the procedural issues of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation would be tackled in parallel with the agricultural pillar, including stocking for food security, and the post-Bali work programme, taking into account the priorities of developing countries, including the urgent priority to eliminate all

forms of export subsidies, in accordance with the agricultural mandate of the Doha Round.

36. The Ministers condemned the brutal military aggression committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in July and August 2014 against the Palestinian civilian population in the occupied Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of more than 2,150 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, and injuries to more than 11,000 Palestinians as a result of the lethal, indiscriminate and excessive use of force by Israeli occupying forces. The Ministers also condemned the wanton destruction by Israel of thousands of Palestinian homes; vital civilian infrastructure; business properties; mosques; schools, hospitals, public institutions and farms; and several United Nations facilities in Gaza. The Ministers deplored the systematic, grave breaches of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, committed by Israel in this regard. They called for accountability for these crimes and violations and called upon the Security Council, in line with its duty under the Charter to maintain international peace and security, to undertake serious follow-up efforts to bring an end to Israel's impunity, realize justice for the victims and contribute to a peaceful and just solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

37. The Ministers demanded the immediate and full lifting of the Israeli blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, which constitutes the massive collective punishment of its inhabitants in grave contravention of international humanitarian and human rights law. The Ministers requested all members of the international community, the United Nations and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to help in providing the victims of the Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip with the required humanitarian assistance on an urgent basis. They also reiterated their call upon the international community to continue providing much-needed developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip.

38. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people as a result of illegal Israeli practices, which include but are not limited to the continuing colonization of Palestinian land by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as a flagrant violation of relevant United Nations resolutions and disrespect for the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. In this connection, the Ministers demanded a halt to Israel's confiscation of Palestinian property and the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and the wall. They also expressed grave concern over the frequent acts of violence, terror and incitement against Palestinian civilians and the destruction of Palestinian properties by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and called for action to hold the perpetrators accountable for these crimes.

39. The Ministers reaffirmed their unwavering support for the just cause of Palestine and solidarity with the Palestinian people. They reaffirmed their principled and long-standing support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the achievement of their legitimate national aspirations, including for freedom, independence, justice, peace and dignity in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and called for the exertion of the

necessary efforts by the international community in support of these objectives in this International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

40. The Ministers reiterated their call for the immediate and full withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining occupied Lebanese land. They reaffirmed their support for a Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#) and [1850 \(2008\)](#), and the principle of land for peace. In this context, they also reaffirmed their support for the Arab Peace Initiative, endorsed by the Arab Summit Conference since March 2002.

41. The Ministers reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

42. The Ministers reaffirmed the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which seriously damages the economic capacities of the Argentine Republic, and reaffirmed the need for both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the Assembly.

43. Highlighting the right of the States members of the Group of 77 to permanent sovereignty over their energy resources, the Ministers expressed that the operations carried out by companies not authorized by the Argentine Government in the Malvinas Islands area relating to the exploration of natural resources, especially hydrocarbon resources, were seriously detrimental to the sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over its continental shelf.

44. In this regard, the Ministers recognized the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal action, with full respect for international law and relevant resolutions, against unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in the referred area.

45. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to find a peaceful solution to the sovereignty issues facing developing countries, including the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to independence, in violation of international law and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. Failure to resolve these decolonization and sovereignty issues would seriously damage and undermine the development and economic capacities and prospects of developing countries. In this regard, they noted with great concern that despite strong opposition from Mauritius, the United

Kingdom had purported to establish a “marine protected area” around the Chagos Archipelago, which contravened international law and further impeded the exercise by Mauritius of its sovereign rights over the archipelago and the right of return of Mauritius citizens who had been forcibly removed from the archipelago by the United Kingdom.

46. The Ministers emphasized that transnational corporations had a responsibility to respect all human rights and should refrain from causing environmental disasters and affecting the well-being of peoples.

47. The Ministers reaffirmed their firm rejection of the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. They emphasized that such actions not only undermined the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law but also severely threatened the freedom of trade and investment. The Ministers therefore called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

48. The Ministers expressed their strongest rejection of the implementation of unilateral coercive measures and reiterate their solidarity with Cuba, while reaffirming their call upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on that sisterly nation for more than five decades. In particular, the Ministers called for an end to the persecution of Cuba’s international financial transactions abroad, which had been exacerbated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States in recent years.

49. The Ministers reaffirmed their rejection of the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Sudan, which had a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan, and in this regard called for an immediate lifting of those sanctions.

50. The Ministers reaffirmed their rejection of the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in this regard called for an immediate lifting of those sanctions.

51. The Ministers recalled once again that climate change was one of the most serious global challenges of the times. They underscored the fact that developing countries continued to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the impact of response measures, even though they were the least responsible for climate change. Accordingly, they called for developed countries to take the lead in responding to climate change. Climate change threatens not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies.

52. The Ministers stressed that the developed countries, given their historical responsibility, needed to take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, particularly the principles of equity and common but differentiated

responsibilities and respective capabilities, and provide financial and technological support to developing countries.

53. The Ministers reiterated that the extent to which developing countries would effectively implement their commitments under the Framework Convention would depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and would take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication were the first and overriding priorities of the developing countries.

54. The Ministers reiterated their support for the success of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Lima. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to achieve progress in Lima towards the adoption at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, in 2015, of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention that was in accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular common but differentiated responsibility, and that would strengthen the multilateral, rules-based system. The Ministers also reiterated their support for constructive discussions at the social pre-Conference meeting in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ahead of Lima. In this regard, the Ministers expressed their support to the Governments of Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the successful steering of the work of these meetings.

55. The Ministers noted the progress in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and emphasized that the outcome of parties' work under the Working Group must enable the further enhancement of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. Ministers reiterated that the work under the Working Group and its outcome must be under the Convention and in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions stipulated in the Convention, including the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The process under the Working Group must not lead to a reinterpretation or a rewriting of the Convention.

56. The Ministers stressed the need to urgently close the ambition gap and expressed their concern at the lack of fulfilment of commitments by developed countries in this regard. In addressing this gap, focus must not only be limited to mitigation but also include gaps relating to finance, technology and support for capacity-building. They emphasized that developed countries must take robust and ambitious mitigation commitments with ambitious quantitative emissions limitation reduction targets, as required by science and mandated by the Convention.

57. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of respect for the universal realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affected their social and economic development, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, including through the use of information and communications technologies, in particular social networks, contrary to the principles of international law, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the international covenants on human rights, and stress that full respect for the

principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law inspire their full commitment to multilateralism.

58. The Ministers recalled the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Ministers recognized that, while economic growth was returning, there was a need to sustain the recovery, which was fragile and uneven, to face the ongoing adverse impacts of multiple crises on development and the serious challenges that these impacts posed to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in Africa.

59. The Ministers expressed profound concern about the fact that the commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the summit of the Group of Eight held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, had not been entirely reached, and in this regard stress the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil that and other donors' commitments to increasing aid through a variety of means, including the provision of new additional resources, the transfer of technology to and the building of capacity in African countries, and to supporting their sustainable development. They called for continued support for Africa's development initiatives, including Agenda 2063 (a continental strategic vision and priority framework for socioeconomic development), the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. On the other hand, they welcomed the support that some developing countries had extended to Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation programmes.

60. The Ministers recalled the convening of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and welcomed the adoption of the outcome document entitled "Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)", which represented the international community's renewed political commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States and reaffirmed that those States remained "a special case" for sustainable development owing to their unique and particular vulnerabilities. It also set out new modalities for strengthened action on a range of challenges and priorities concerning small island developing States and demonstrated how partnerships with different stakeholders could be nurtured and utilized as one of the important means to implement the outcome document. Reports on six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue sessions focusing on partnerships specific to small island developing States with a wide range of partners were an integral outcome of the Conference and exemplified its theme, "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

61. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Independent State of Samoa for hosting the Conference and reaffirmed their commitment to working with small island developing States towards the full implementation of the outcome document of the Conference to ensure its success.

62. The Ministers recognized the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries caused by these States' lack of territorial access to the sea, which was aggravated by their remoteness from world markets, and expressed concern about the fact that the inclusive economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remained very vulnerable to external

shocks and to the multiple challenges that the international community faced, including the financial and economic crisis and climate change. They stressed the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them to overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development.

63. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by landlocked and transit developing countries through genuine partnership, with sufficient support and cooperation from the international community for the effective implementation of priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and its successor programme. They welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 and called upon the international community to critically consider the special needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and help to develop priorities for a new, more comprehensive, common action-oriented framework for landlocked developing countries for the next decade.

64. The Ministers stressed the need for the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria; recognizing the multidimensional nature of development and poverty; and adequate, systemic and better-focused support by the United Nations development system, according to national plans.

65. The Ministers expressed concerns about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who placed themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognized the obligation of States to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

66. The Ministers expressed deep concern that international efforts to end the cycle of diseases, such as the HIV and AIDS pandemic and tuberculosis, malaria and other neglected tropical diseases, through prevention and treatment and to promote mental health and well-being are being hampered by the appearance and spread of yet another tropical disease in the form of Ebola in the region of West Africa.

67. The Ministers, considering the cross-border nature of the epidemic, the unprecedented infection rate of the disease and the risk of its spread beyond borders, cognizant of the socioeconomic impact of the epidemic on the development of the primarily affected countries, and acknowledging that the Ebola epidemic is a threat to health security at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, thanked the international community for the steps taken to date and support provided and requested more assistance to those efforts.

68. The Ministers requested the international community to provide the assistance necessary to build the capacity of member States for surveillance, including but not

limited to active case search, contact tracing and information sharing on the Ebola epidemic with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Médecins sans frontières, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, in a timely manner.

69. The Ministers acknowledged the efforts of the Heads of State and Government of the Mano River Union countries in West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) for their commitment and actions taken to stop the spread of Ebola in their countries, and called upon development partners and the entire international community to provide continued, sustained and relevant support to the efforts of the affected countries. In this regard, they encouraged all donors, particularly traditional donors, to enhance transparency in their ODA disbursements related to health issues, especially in this case.

70. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [69/1](#) and, in this regard, remained convinced that global unity was the key to defeating Ebola, a common threat to global health.

71. The Ministers welcomed the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in 2016 and, in this regard, decided to support the adoption of this decision by the General Assembly.

72. The Ministers noted the forthcoming holding in Tarija, Plurinational State of Bolivia, of the meeting of Ministers of Industrialization and counterparts on the issue of governance of natural resources and industrialization, with the cooperation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

73. The Ministers welcomed the inauguration of the new suite of offices of the Group of 77 on the fifth floor of the Secretariat Building at United Nations Headquarters by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma. The Ministers noted with satisfaction this achievement, which marked the permanent return of the Group of 77 office to the Secretariat Building, where it had been originally housed since 1982, before the initiation of the capital master plan.

74. The Ministers recalled the obligations of the host country under the agreement of 26 June 1947 between the United Nations and the United States of America and welcomed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution [68/306](#) on the enhancement of the administration and financial functioning of the United Nations, which was aimed at addressing the issue of the arbitrary closure of bank accounts of Permanent Missions to the United Nations by some banking institutions, in order to find a permanent solution to the problem.

75. The Ministers reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly was the sole Main Committee of the Organization entrusted with responsibilities for administrative, financial and budgetary matters. In this regard, the Ministers requested that any budgetary, financial, and administrative matters, including those related to the establishment of a peacekeeping operation or a special political mission, be discussed solely in the framework of the Fifth Committee, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

76. The Ministers reaffirmed that any Secretariat and management reform efforts, including on its budget process, must not be intended to change the intergovernmental, multilateral and international nature of the Organization but must strengthen the ability of Member States to perform their oversight and monitoring role and that prior consideration and approval by Member States was essential in all cases where the measures to be implemented fell under the prerogatives of the General Assembly. In this regard, they recall resolution 66/257. They also reaffirmed the right of the entire membership of the United Nations to pronounce itself on the administration of the Organization, including on budgetary matters, and the need for continuous interaction and dialogue between the Secretariat and the Assembly aimed at fostering a positive environment for the negotiations, the decision-making process and the implementation of the reform measures.

77. The Ministers strongly supported the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In this context, they renewed their commitment to strengthening the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Ministers also urged the rest of the membership of the United Nations to actively participate in the sessions of the Committee.

78. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the Organization and reaffirmed that its content should fully reflect the mandates of Member States, as well as the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

79. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of preserving the budget methodology, the established budgetary procedures and practices and the rules and regulations governing the budget process and stressed that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. In this sense, they underlined that the existing recosting methodology was a fundamental and integral element of the budgetary methodology agreed in the Assembly and affirmed that the existing recosting methodology ensured that mandated activities were not negatively affected by currency fluctuations and inflation.

80. The Ministers underlined that the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments reflected changes in the relative economic situations of the United Nations Member States. The Ministers reaffirmed the principle of “capacity to pay” as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and rejected any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contributions of developing countries. In this regard, they emphasized that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessment, such as base period, gross national income, conversion rates, low per capita income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for the least developed countries and debt stock adjustment, must be kept intact and were not negotiable.

81. The Ministers stressed that the current maximum assessment rate, or ceiling, had been fixed as a political compromise and was contrary to the principle of capacity to pay and a fundamental source of distortion in the scale of assessments.

In this context, they urged the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 55/5 C.

82. The Ministers affirmed that the current principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should constitute a basis for any discussion on the peacekeeping scale. In this regard, the Ministers stressed that the peacekeeping scale must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The Ministers also recalled that the economically less developed countries had limited capacity to contribute towards the budgets of peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Ministers emphasized that any discussion on the system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale should take into account the conditions of developing countries, whose current positions must not be negatively affected. The Ministers stressed, in this regard, that no member of the Group of 77 and China that was not a permanent member of the Security Council should therefore be categorized above level C.

83. The Ministers expressed their support to the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law established by General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965 for the purpose of contributing to greater knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. They recalled that the Programme and its components were one of the cornerstones of the efforts of the United Nations to promote international law and that jurists, academics, diplomats and other public officials from developing countries greatly benefited from the regional courses of international law, fellowships, publications and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. In the light of their concern about the lack of voluntary resources to support the activities of this important programme, the Ministers reaffirmed that all the components of the Programme of Assistance, including the regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, the seminars and regional training on international treaty laws and practice and legal publications and training materials, must be financed through the regular budget of the United Nations starting from the biennium 2014-2015.

84. The Ministers called for a responsible accountability approach to be adopted on the question of partnerships involving the United Nations, particularly as regards the participation of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic entities. In this regard, they reaffirmed the need to enhance transparency, coherence and sustainability, as well as accountability to Member States, in United Nations partnerships, and stressed the need to ensure that procedures existed for the consideration and approval of any such initiatives by Member States in the General Assembly in order to preserve the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations.

85. The Ministers approved the report of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and endorsed its recommendations. The Ministers commended the Chair of the Trust Fund for his continued commitment and expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved by the Trust Fund. In view of the substantial

decrease in the interest earnings of the Trust Fund caused by the current world financial situation, as reported by the Chair of the Trust Fund, the Ministers appealed to every Member State to make a significant contribution to the Trust Fund on the occasion of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, to be held in New York on 10 November 2014.

86. The Ministers approved the recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the Trust Fund regarding the management of project resources to support the activities of the Committee and empowered the Chair of the Trust Fund to finalize and sign the relevant documents.

87. The Ministers approved the financial statement of the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries Account of the Group of 77, as presented by the Chair of the Group of 77, and urged those member States that had not yet done so to make special efforts to pay their outstanding contributions.

88. The Ministers welcomed the admission of the Republic of South Sudan as a member of the Group of 77.

89. The Ministers warmly welcomed the election by acclamation of the Republic of South Africa to the chairmanship of the Group of 77 for 2015.
