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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Note verbale dated 29 September 1979 from the Permanent
Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Seventy-seven in New York to transmit to him herewith the text of the Declaration adopted on 29 September 1979 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Seventy-seven.

The Permanent Representative has the honour, in accordance with a decision adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, to request you to have the text of the Declaration distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 55 and 56.

ANNEX

Draft Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign
Affairs of the Group of 77

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 held their third meeting in New York, from 27 to 29 September 1979, and issued the following Declaration:

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, meeting in the midst of a particularly difficult period in the evolution of the international economic situation and in the negotiations with the developed countries, note with grave concern the aggravation of the negative trends in international economic relations, with increasingly harmful effects on the developing countries.
2. The Ministers consider that the world economy is currently in the most serious crisis since the end of the Second World War. This crisis stems from the underlying structural maladjustments and fundamental disequilibrium in the world economy as evidenced by the failure of the developed countries to control their internal imbalances and by their refusal to recognize the rights of the developing countries in international economic relations. They stress that this crisis is also the result of the persistent lack of equity in international economic relations which are characterized by inequality.
3. The ad hoc decisions and policy measures taken in developed countries have, therefore, been inadequate in solving the problems of those countries and have worsened those of the developing countries. Thus, the protectionist measures which have been introduced by developed countries or groupings of developed countries and which have been rendered in some cases more stringent during the current year have aggravated the imbalances in world trade and the international monetary and financial system and have been detrimental not only to the economies of the developed countries themselves, but mainly to the economies of the developing countries.
4. The Ministers note with deep concern that the disproportionately large share of the burden of adjustment in the world economy that has been cast on the developing countries through these and other measures has aggravated even further the position of those countries. The long outstanding problems faced by the developing countries in the areas of, inter alia, trade, commodities, money and finance, technology, to which the Ministers drew the attention of the international community in their previous Declarations, are not only still present but, in many cases, have become more acute. Instead of contributing effectively to the solution of these problems and in an attempt to create division and discord among the developing countries as well as to perpetuate the status quo, the developed countries are pressing for new concepts, such as access to supplies, graduation, selectivity, the utilization of a "global strategy for

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basic needs" and the concept of differentiation. The Ministers are of the view that the introduction of such new concepts would, in addition to distorting the concept of co-operation, lead to shifting the focus of the international community away from genuine international economic problems and the negotiations on the establishment of the New International Economic Order and would distort national development priorities. The Ministers believe that such concepts are incompatible with the aspirations, unity and solidarity of the developing countries and they therefore reject them.

5. The Ministers consider that the existing international economic system is still unable to provide adequate and equitable support to the development of the developing countries, to enable those countries to play an effective role in international decision-making, or to ensure an efficient functioning of the world economy.

6. The Ministers note with satisfaction the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development on some issues, in particular the institutional and financial issues. However, they note with regret that on some other important questions no decisions were taken. Furthermore, they consider that the dialogue which the developing countries have been striving to conduct with the developed countries in most other international fora to bring about, in accordance with the objectives of the New International Economic Order, genuine solutions to the imbalances in world economic relations and in the international institutional framework, has met, to the regret of the Foreign Ministers, with great resistance from most developed countries. Hence negotiations in these fora, during the current year, did not produce adequate results, commensurate with the magnitude of the problems, due to the negative attitude of most developed countries. The Ministers express disappointment at the outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 has so far produced limited results. The Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy was unable to make progress since developed countries were adopting a delaying attitude indicative of a lack of willingness to take firm commitments for the development of the developing countries in the 1980s. The multilateral trade negotiations have been concluded without the developing countries being enabled to participate fully in them and derive equitable benefits in accordance with the Tokyo Declaration. The Ministers observe with deep concern a hardening of attitude and an increasingly inward-looking posture by the advanced nations which, if not reversed, could seriously damage international economic co-operation.

7. The Ministers take note with satisfaction of the views and recommendations of the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana, relating to economic problems.

8. Despite the present stalemate in the negotiations, the Ministers reaffirm the continuing readiness of the developing countries for genuine action-oriented dialogue with developed countries which should be based on the principles and objectives contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the New

International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and be aimed at structural changes in international economic relations. Developed countries should, in that context, recognize not only the need for a genuine interdependence of nations but also the interrelationship of issues and the necessity for simultaneous progress on different planes. They should also recognize that the economic crisis has universal effects and hence there is a necessity for equal and full participation of all countries in the solution of international economic problems.

9. While calling for the urgent and fundamental restructuring of the present institutional framework for international economic negotiations, in order to enable effective participation of all States on a basis of equality in the decision-making process, the Ministers strongly reaffirm that the United Nations system is the only framework within which all negotiations of a global nature relating to the establishment of the New International Economic Order should take place. In that regard, they emphasize the central role of the General Assembly as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields.

10. The Ministers reiterate the proposal made by the Group of 77 at the last meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on the basis of the recommendations of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, aiming at the launching within the United Nations of a round of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development with the full participation of all States and within a specified time-frame. They, in particular, reiterate the conviction of developing countries that such negotiations should be action-oriented and allow for an integrated simultaneous approach to major issues in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance. They emphasize that such negotiations should not involve any interruption of the negotiations in other fora of the United Nations system but should reinforce and draw upon them. They emphasize that the Committee of the Whole should perform the functions of a preparatory committee and should submit to the special session of the General Assembly in 1980 its final report containing recommendations on the establishment of the global negotiations. Furthermore, they believe that the global negotiations should make a significant contribution to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade. The Ministers call on the developed countries to demonstrate a positive and constructive attitude towards this proposal in order to enable the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session to adopt it, it being understood that the success of the proposed negotiations will be conditional mainly upon a clear commitment by those countries to engage in genuine negotiations in the context of the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

11. The Ministers recall that, on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Group of 77, the General Assembly decided to hold, in 1980, a special session. They emphasize again that the special session should assess the progress made in the various fora of the United Nations system in the establishment of the New

International Economic Order and, in the light of that assessment, to take appropriate action for further promoting the development of developing countries and international economic co-operation. The Ministers believe that the General Assembly at its forthcoming special session should adopt the International Development Strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade. It should also, at the same session, launch the round of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development proposed by the Group of 77.

12. The Ministers consider that the basic structural and economic problems facing the least developed countries are so severe that extraordinary additional measures, especially designed as an integral feature of the New International Economic Order, are required. In this regard, the Ministers call on the international community to implement fully the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted at the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

13. The Ministers consider also that there is a need for specific action to overcome economic problems arising from the handicaps facing the land-locked and island developing countries as well as the economic problems facing the most seriously affected countries. In this regard, they call on the international community to implement the resolutions and decisions adopted within the United Nations system in favour of those categories, including the resolutions adopted at the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

14. The Ministers reaffirm the inalienable right of developing countries to full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and all economic activities, including the right of nationalization according to their national legislation. Furthermore, and in view of recent developments, they reiterate the commitment of the developing countries to condemn, reject and resist all forms of threats, including any military threats, or coercive actions and discriminatory economic policies and practices, either direct or indirect against individual or groups of developing countries by developed countries.

15. The Ministers reaffirm their strong belief that urgent, more vigorous and concrete steps and actions still remain to be taken, collectively and individually, by all the members of the international community to end without delay colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racism, racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, hegemony, expansionism and exploitation which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation of the developing countries. They stress again that it is the duty of all States effectively to support and extend assistance to the countries, territories and peoples still subjected to, and affected by, these practices so as to restore their national sovereignty, territorial integrity and all other inalienable and fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination, in order to enable them to achieve independence, and to promote development and international co-operation, peace and security. They urge all countries to refrain from participating in, encouraging or promoting, in any way, any investment or economic activities aimed at trade, or exploitation of any resources, or investments in economic activities in the territories subjected to the aforementioned practices. The Ministers reiterate their unswerving support for the heroic struggle of the

peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories to achieve their liberation and to regain effective control over their natural resources and economic activities. The Ministers also declared their solidarity with the front-line States that, as a consequence of their support to the liberation movements of southern Africa, suffer military aggressions from the racist régimes.

16. The Ministers reaffirm the unity of the aspirations and the purposes of the member countries of the Group of 77 as well as the identity of their fundamental interests. In this regard, they note with satisfaction that the solidarity and unity of the Group of 77 have been strengthened despite attempts by external forces to divide the group. Given the seriousness of the problems confronting the developing countries, they deem it vitally necessary further to strengthen and develop their unity and solidarity which will enable them to have an even greater impact in international economic negotiations.

17. The Ministers accordingly underline the vital importance of initiatives which member Governments of the Group of 77 take to accelerate the development and transformation of their economies through enhanced economic and technical co-operation among themselves on the basis of collective self-reliance. These initiatives include co-operation in the sphere of the supply of exportable primary products and commodities, participation in joint projects among developing countries for the creation of production and processing capacities in key sectors, organization of research and development within developing countries in key areas on a collective basis with shared financing and participation in the results thereof, increased financial assistance among developing countries, and the channelling of an increasing part of the funds invested abroad by developing countries in other developing countries. Within the framework of their national policies and legislations, the recipient developing countries are urged to take steps in order to ensure the security of investments in other developing countries and to grant especially favourable treatment to those investments. In the opinion of the Ministers, the strengthening of the Group of 77 will also enhance the collective bargaining strength and countervailing power of the developing countries, the need for which they recognize. They reaffirm that such countervailing power flows from the individual and collective self-reliance of the developing countries and that the basis of collective self-reliance rests on the intensification and strengthening of economic linkages and co-operation among developing countries. The Ministers, therefore, reiterate the firm intention of their Governments to give the highest priority to implementing programmes of economic and technical co-operation among themselves, based, inter alia, on the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action, the Mexico City Programme, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and the Arusha Programme of Action, as an essential element in the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

18. The Ministers note with satisfaction the policy guidelines on the reinforcement of collective self-reliance among the developing countries adopted at the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana, Cuba, the implementation of which would be of key significance in the further intensification of the solidarity of the developing countries leading to the early and successful achievement of the objectives of the economic and social development of developing countries through the establishment of the New International Economic Order.