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## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 30 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative of  
India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, I have the honour to enclose herewith a declaration issued at the end of the annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1980, and to request that this declaration be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12 and 61.

(Signed) Brajesh C. MISHRA  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of India to the United Nations



ANNEX

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

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 held their fourth annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters to review and assess the results of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, to prepare for the consideration of issues at the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly and to review the progress made since their meeting in March 1980 in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries.
2. The Ministers recalled that the initiative for the launching of a new round of global negotiations was taken by the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State of Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the support for the launching and for the success of the global negotiations reiterated at recent high-level meetings of developing countries, in particular the First Organization of African Unity Economic Summit, held at Lagos, the Sixth SELA Ministerial Meeting held at Caracas, and the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Islamabad.
3. The Ministers are pleased with the declaration of OPEC, at its tri-ministerial meeting held recently at Vienna, in favour of the launching and successful conclusion of a new round of global negotiations.
4. The Ministers recalled that, in the communiqué dated 22 August 1980 (A/S-11/19), of the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, they had emphasized that the failure of the special session would have far-reaching adverse consequences for international economic co-operation, development, economic justice and stability, world peace and security. The Ministers had also expressed, in that communiqué, the hope that, in a spirit of co-operation, interdependence and mutual benefit, all industrialized countries would approach the negotiations at the special session with a sense of purpose and the political will indispensable to the success of the negotiations.
5. The Ministers expressed deep disappointment and serious concern at the failure of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly to achieve its objectives. The negotiations during the special session have confirmed and proved beyond doubt that the main impediment towards progress in the establishment of the new international economic order is the opposition on the part of many developed industrialized countries to measures for restructuring the international economic system with a view to ensuring equity, justice and stability in global economic relations. This is evident in the fact that three developed industrialized countries did not find it possible to join the rest of the States Members of the United Nations in an agreement on procedures for the global negotiations, which the Group of 77 had, in a spirit of compromise, decided to accept, and on which it had appeared that a consensus was possible. These three countries must bear the responsibility for the failure of the eleventh special session to reach the necessary agreements to launch the global negotiations.

6. The Ministers commended the solidarity, unity and the strength, as well as patience, displayed by the Group of 77 in the conduct of the negotiations during the eleventh special session. At each stage, the Group of 77 had approached the negotiations in a spirit of flexibility, co-operation and compromise while safeguarding the concept of the global negotiations as expounded by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

7. The Group of 77 remains prepared to renew and to continue the negotiating process and, at the thirty-fifth regular session, will not be found wanting in efforts to complete the preparatory work for the new round of global negotiations, provided that the developed countries display the necessary readiness and political will. The Ministers expect that a positive attitude by all developed countries, in particular by the few who have held up the negotiations so far, during the thirty-fifth regular session will permit the launching of the global negotiations in January 1981.

8. The Ministers noted the consensus reached on the text of the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, to come into effect and be implemented from 1 January 1981. They recommended that the strategy be adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session. The Ministers expressed the view that the successful conclusion of the global negotiations will make a significant contribution to the implementation of the strategy.

9. The Ministers urged speedy implementation of the measures called for by the General Assembly in resolution S-11/4, adopted at its eleventh special session, in order to meet the critical economic situation of the least developed countries. The Ministers underlined the need for concrete steps to be taken in the current session of the General Assembly to reinforce preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. The Ministers took note of the adoption by the General Assembly at the eleventh special session of resolution S-11/3, entitled "Suggestions by the Secretary-General to overcome the critical economic situation of many developing countries", and called for effective follow-up action by the Secretary-General with a view to consideration by the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

11. The Ministers stressed that the present difficulties and uncertainties in international economic relations and the stalemate in negotiations between developed and developing countries require renewed efforts to promote and strengthen economic co-operation among developing countries as an indispensable element both of the accelerated development of developing countries and of strengthening their negotiating power in their relations with the rest of the world. In this context, they considered, in accordance with the decision taken by the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held in March 1980, the report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Vienna from 3 to 7 June 1980.

12. The Ministers endorsed the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and expressed the view that

they represented an extremely useful basis for further progress in the area of economic co-operation among developing countries. The Ministers particularly underlined the conclusion contained in the report that economic co-operation among developing countries, particularly in trade, raw materials, energy, food, industrialization, technology and finance would be one of the best means by which the integration and collective self-reliance among developing countries could be greatly consolidated.

13. In the context of economic co-operation among developing countries, the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the willingness of other developing countries to take concrete measures to assist in meeting the development needs of the least developed countries on a priority basis. The Ministers strongly emphasized the need for particular attention being given to the least developed countries within the framework of economic co-operation among developing countries and urged that special efforts should be undertaken to ensure that all least developed countries can actively participate and benefit from programmes of economic co-operation among developing countries in various fields.

14. The Ministers therefore agreed to convene a conference of developing countries at a high level in 1981 in order to intensify and ensure the implementation of various programmes and decisions on economic co-operation among developing countries in a concrete and coherent manner.

15. To this end, the Ministers entrusted the Group of 77 in New York to make necessary arrangements for the preparation of the conference. This preparatory work should include ad hoc technical meetings of officials responsible at the national level for the operational aspects of activities of economic co-operation among developing countries in each of the areas.

16. The Ministers noted with interest the ideas for further co-operation among developing countries which emerged from the fifty-fifth Conference of OPEC, held at Caracas, and subsequent meetings. In particular, the Ministers noted with great interest that the proposal for an OPEC development agency was under consideration and that it will be placed before the OPEC summit meeting together with other proposals.

17. The Ministers recalled paragraph 13 on economic co-operation among developing countries of the communiqué dated 22 August 1980. The Ministers considered that a major and significant contribution in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries has been made in the recent joint Declaration of the Presidents of Mexico and Venezuela on an energy co-operation programme for Central American and Caribbean countries. The Ministers strongly affirmed that the institution of such a programme as well as the existing subregional and regional arrangements among developing countries would lead to significant reinforcement of collective self-reliance among developing countries.