



PLENARY GENERAL STATEMENT: 14 JULY 2015:
10H00-13H00

GENERAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY FINANCE MINISTER NHLANHLA NENE OF SOUTH AFRICA, CHAIR OF THE GROUP OF 77 CHINA, AT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (ETHIOPIA, ADDIS ABABA, JULY 2015)

Mr President,

I am very pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, the Group would like to once again acknowledge and appreciate the leadership role played by the Co-Facilitators in the preparatory processes towards this the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. We thank the Ethiopian Government for hosting this Conference and for the generous hospitality extended to myself and the whole G77 and China membership since our arrival in this beautiful country.

Mr President,

The huge symbolism associated with hosting this Financing for Development Conference on African soil, for the first time, must surely resonate with us all.

Mr President,

The preparatory process for this Conference was long and demanding. Throughout, the Group was steadfast in its resolve and commitment to engage in a positive and constructive spirit. It was with this spirit of goodwill that we approached the process with the highest level of flexibility. We demonstrated this flexibility on a number of issues in the text that are important for the Group.

The Group of 77 and China would like to emphasize the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and countries ^{or} people living under foreign occupation, as well as the specific challenges _^ facing middle-income countries (MICs).

Furthermore, the Group is deeply concerned about the day-to-day hardships and economic obstacles faced by peoples and countries affected by unilateral economic coercive measures. In this regard the Group reaffirms the commitments stipulated in Rio+20 outcome document relevant UN resolutions in which such measures were considered illegal and as the main obstacle to the national development plans of the affected states. These measures should be stopped immediately.

Mr President,

The Group wishes to stress the critical need to curb illicit financial flows (IFFs) out of developing countries. In that vein, we would like to urge the UN system to pay due attention to the January 2015 African Union Summit's Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows, endorsing the findings and recommendations of the High Level Panel on IFFs from Africa. This should be replicated in other regions around the world, to forge an agreement on concrete measures by all countries to curb IFFs at origin, destination and transit points.

The Group would like to stress the importance of assisting developing countries to industrialize and develop in a manner that creates decent employment. We also urge that technical and capacity-building assistance be provided to developing countries at the international, regional and national levels to support them in obtaining the maximum benefits from sustainable extraction and use of natural resources, taking into account the full exercise of the sovereign right of our countries over their natural resources.

Mr President,

The G77 and China would like to reiterate the importance of North-South Cooperation. Indeed, the first platform for this International Conference was formed to come up with ways and systems to source financing for development. This underpinned the global partnership for development at that time, which pre-dated the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the lead-up to the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it is thus an opportune moment to join together in a revitalized global partnership for development. We call on all Member States to embrace the

spirit of social inclusion that is so central to lifting our populations out of the morass of poverty, hunger, inequality and unemployment.

The North has to demonstrate leadership and commitment in this revitalized global partnership for development, which is firmly based on developed countries' experience in development cooperation, trade relations and financial and other resources.

Mr President,

The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate its position that South-South Cooperation should not and cannot absolve developed countries from fulfilling their ODA commitments.

As mentioned in the Nairobi Outcome document of December 2009, 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. We reiterate that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

It is therefore important to uphold the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) in financing for development so as not to dilute the importance and centrality of North-South Cooperation.

Mr President,

The Group of 77 and China wishes for the Addis Ababa Outcome Document to embrace high-quality deliverables that addresses the

development financing needs and aspirations of developing countries, so as not to lose focus on the purpose and objectives of this Conference.

In terms of the deliverables the Group of 77 and China would like to, *inter alia*, highlight the following:

- The Outcome Document of the International Conference on Financing for Development should closely resemble those of its predecessors in terms of the scope and structure, namely of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, with the titles and sub-titles clearly reflecting that the Conference is focused on, and speaks directly to, Financing for Development.
- The traditional definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA), based on North-South Cooperation, should be maintained.
- There is an imperative need to maintain the separation of the financing for development track from the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- There is a need to upgrade the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters as an Intergovernmental entity.

Mr President,

In the final analysis, the Group acknowledges that all countries take primary responsibility for our own development and are committed to the common objective of growing our economies, increasing job creation, in

particular amongst the youth and women, and, most importantly, eradicating poverty and inequality.

I thank you!