



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY
AMBASSADOR MUNIR AKRAM, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE 45TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (New York, 8 February 2007)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Allow me to extend, on behalf of the Group, our warmest felicitations to you and the Bureau on your election to the 45th session of the Commission for Social Development. The G77 and China wish to assure you their support and cooperation during the proceedings of this important session which will be conducted under the revised methods of work agreed through the ECOSOC resolution (2005/11) of 21 July 2005. We hope that deliberations of this review segment on the theme **Promoting full employment and decent work for all with their impact on poverty eradication and social integration** will provide substantive input and broad guidelines for the next year's policy segment on the same theme.

Mr. Chairman

2. The commitment to promote the goal of full employment as a basic priority of economic and social policies, both at the national and international levels, and to enable all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work, was one of the three pillars of the 1995 (Copenhagen) World Summit for Social Development.

3. Ten years later, at the 2005 world summit, our leaders agreed to re-invigorate this commitment taking into account the progress achieved in the last decade and resolved to make the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all... , "a central objective of national and international policies and development strategies".

4. The High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council of 2006 further built on this commitment and adopted a Ministerial Declaration, inter alia, reaffirming to create employment strategies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity.

Distinguished Delegates

5. All individuals, regardless of age, sex, race ethnicity or disability, have right to employment and decent work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. There has been no greater challenge to humanity, nor greater threat to world peace, than the failure to realize the United Nations Charter's vision of promoting better standards of life and larger freedoms. The close nexus between security and development, in this increasingly globalized and interconnected world, clearly demonstrates that prosperity cannot be sustained while poverty afflicts many. This presents us with the urgent imperative of tackling poverty and addressing development by focusing on employment generation strategies on priority basis.

6. The report of the Secretary General (E/CN.5/2007/2) on the main theme presents a grim picture on the realization of commitments to eradicate poverty and suggests that achievement of full employment and decent work remains a global concern. Despite the increase in total employment since the mid 1990s, the problems of unemployment and underemployment have worsened. The concept of decent work- the provision of a sufficient level of income, security, personal dignity and good working conditions- has yet to turn into reality for more than a billion people and one third of the global work force.

7. We recognize that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows as well as through advances in technology for the growth of the world economy and the improvement of living standards around the world. However, at the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies that need to be addressed. Situations of foreign occupation, armed conflicts and instances of unilateral coercive measures are persistently impeding the avenues for development and growth for large segments of populations in the developing world. The growing inequality within countries is another challenge to poverty eradication. More than two billion people, for instance, remain entrapped in poverty in low and middle-income countries alone. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries in an equitable manner, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy.

8. There is an increasing recognition in the G77 and China that promotion of good governance, sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. We are aware that investing in human capital with emphasis on effective delivery of basic social services and bringing the poor, vulnerable and backward segments of society into the mainstream of development by augmenting targeted interventions and expanding social safety nets are crucial to achieving the ambitious goal of poverty eradication.

9. The G77 and China, however, believe that struggle to promote full employment and decent work for all transcends the national frontiers. The achievement of full employment, as noted by the report, rests upon the promotion of an enabling overall macroeconomic environment based on the implementation of an integrated and coherent set of policies both at the national and international levels. It is imperative that macroeconomic policies must endeavour to incorporate employment creation as an integral component. Furthermore, it is also essential to eliminate asymmetries of globalization and its uneven costs and benefits. This requires adopting specific measures to incorporate the informal sector in social protection programmes, and establishing incentive structures that promote employment creation through directing investment to sectors that are productive and labour-intensive, with a special view to promoting small and medium size enterprises.

Mr. Chairman

10. Given the crucial role of international cooperation in realizing the MDGs and promoting the goal of full employment and decent work for all, G77 and China would like to stress the following points for consideration of the international community in evolving macroeconomic policies:-

- i. Global rules and policies on trade and finance must allow more space for policy autonomy in developing countries to allow developing policies and institutional arrangements best suited to the level of development and specific circumstances of the countries concerned.

- ii. The policies of international organizations and donor countries must also shift more decisively away from external conditionality to national ownership of policies.
- iii. Negotiations in the multilateral frameworks should particularly address the issues of agricultural trade, market access, reduction of trade barriers and fluctuations in commodity prices and terms of trade for agricultural commodities.
- iv. Creation of sustained financial resources for the developing countries through increased ODA and debt cancellation are crucial to enable them pursue active labour market policies particularly through public works programmes and financing of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This would help in enhancing the productive capacity of poor through increased access to land credit, markets and information.
- v. Fair rules for trade and capital flows need to be complemented by fair rules for the cross border movement of people. There is a growing recognition that labor migration strategies, when formulated and implemented through collaborative approaches, become more effective and responsive to the exigencies of the situations in countries of origin and destination.
- vi. Cooperation between countries of origin and destination on key labor migration decisions should be enhanced for exchange of information on the labor situation of countries and the creation of some degree of harmonization of labor policies among countries.

Mr. Chairman

11. The G77 and China welcome the continued focus on various social groups namely family, youth, ageing and persons with disability in the discussions of the Commission. We also welcome the recently adopted Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We believe that it will contribute in addressing some of the discriminatory policies towards the persons with disabilities and bringing them in the mainstream workforce.

12. Population ageing is another issue of global concern that requires concerted, well focused and forward looking policies at all levels. There is an urgent need to enhance our efforts to integrate older persons into the mainstream of development policies and overcome barriers to hiring and retaining older workers. We hope that discussion during this session will contribute important input for the first global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International of Action on Ageing.

13. We are equally concerned about the global jobs crisis which has hit the young people the hardest. With more than one half of the youth still struggling to lift themselves out of poverty, the report of the Secretary General suggests that frustration resulting from long term unemployment among youth could feed political and ideological unrest. We support the supplementary five themes to the World Programme of Action for Youth. The impact of globalization, use of information technology, increase of HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts and the intergenerational relations are all relevant issues to discuss in the context of Youth.

Mr. Chairman

14. The implementation of reforms in international economic and social policy to realize the goal 'of full employment and decent work for all' will require worldwide political support, the commitment of key global actors and strengthening of global institutions. This is also inextricably linked to the realization of MDGs and monitoring of development commitments agreed at international conferences and summits by the international community. The UN, we staunchly believe, has a

pivotal role to play in advancing this global development agenda in line with its Charter vision. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to ensure that the United Nation's comparative advantage, in its universality, neutrality and convening power, is put to more effective use.

I thank you.

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