

**High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries  
Cairo, 18-23 August 1986** ⊗

CONTENTS

- I. Cairo Declaration on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries
- II. Report of the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries
- III. Decision and Resolution adopted at the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries

⊗ The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 at their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in New York from 2 to 4 October 1985 decided to convert the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow up and Coordination Committee (IFCC-V) into a High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 23 August 1986.

## **I. Cairo Declaration on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries**

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the States Members of the Group of 77,

*Having* assembled at a High-Level Meeting in Cairo from 18 to 23 August 1986 under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action and to decide on the future course of action with the objective of giving impetus and greater dynamism to economic development through economic co-operation among developing countries members of the Group of 77,

*Hereby* adopt the following Declaration:

1. They solemnly reaffirmed their full and unwavering support and commitment to economic cooperation among developing countries and reiterated their adherence to the principles, objectives and framework for such cooperation inspired by the historic 1962 Cairo Conference on the Problems of Economic Development;
2. They stressed that, over the years, economic cooperation among developing countries has become a tangible reality that has evolved into innovative concepts based on the principle of collective self-reliance. These concepts were crystallized into precise objectives and translated into detailed programmes and projects in several sectors of economic cooperation;
3. Having reviewed the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, they reaffirmed the need to intensify economic cooperation among developing countries on a self-generating, self-sustaining and self-financing basis and agreed:
  - (a) To integrate in the national development plans and policies of the member countries, objectives and priorities of economic cooperation among developing countries and specific programmes and projects for promoting it;
  - (b) To establish a sector-by-sector scale of priorities, including inter-sectoral integration based on the criteria of mutuality of interest, economic benefits, viability and feasibility of projects and programmes;
  - (c) To encourage the participation of non-governmental entities;
  - (d) To encourage greater mobility of capital, human and scientific and technological resources across borders among developing countries, *inter alia*, through appropriate policies, procedures, rules and regulations;
  - (e) To give particular attention to promoting the pattern of production, consumption and trade to reflect the imperative of economic co-operation among developing countries;
  - (f) To engage without delay in negotiations for putting in place the necessary institutional and policy infrastructure in the related areas of money, finance, trade and industry to promote economic cooperation among developing countries, including specifically:
    - (i) Successful conclusion of the negotiation on the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries within the time-frame already agreed upon;
    - (ii) Establishment of the necessary monetary and financing underpinning for expanded trade flows among developing countries, including trade between State trading organizations;

- (iii) Strengthening the institutional framework in the field of commodities, including producers associations, the Council of Producers' Association and consultative groups, as appropriate, in order to improve the market conditions and to ensure increased earnings from primary commodities of export interest to them;
- (iv) Joint projects for the utilization of natural resources and enhancement of productive capacities, including the establishment of joint ventures;
- (v) Strengthening the flow of and access to information supportive of economic cooperation among developing countries by drawing upon and fully utilizing all existing networks within the United Nations system and regional organizations and through the establishment of the Multisectoral Information Network, as soon as possible;

4. They reaffirmed that determined efforts shall be made to utilize the full potential of regional and sub-regional groupings among developing countries;

5. They emphasized that research consultancy and training institutions in developing countries shall be increasingly involved in the identification, development and implementation of programmes and projects in economic cooperation among developing countries through appropriate networking and other devices;

6. They agreed to increase exchange of technologies and experiences in all fields with a view to intensifying economic cooperation among developing countries. Priority should be given to food and agriculture as well as to processing of agricultural and mineral resources. They emphasized the need to strengthen their technological capacities and, in this regard, to cooperate with those developing countries needing such support;

7. They re-emphasized that the dimension of economic cooperation among developing countries within operational activities of the United Nations system should be expanded through specific programmes and projects;

8. They reaffirmed their continued adherence to the principle of equity and mutuality of benefits, with due regard for a special treatment of the least developed countries;

9. In view of the critical economic situation in Africa, they agreed to promote their economic cooperation with the affected countries and to extend all possible support to them in the implementation of their rehabilitation and development programmes;

10. They also underlined the interrelationship between peace, security, development and economic cooperation among developing countries and accordingly stressed the importance of settling all disputes among developing countries by peaceful means;

11. They agreed to further encourage activities designed to bring the peoples of the developing countries closer through, *inter alia*, increasing their awareness of the mutual benefits and potentials of economic cooperation among developing countries and intensifying their involvement in the implementation of its programmes and projects.

## **II. Report of the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries**

### **A. Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York in October 1985, and at the invitation of the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt, the High-level Meeting on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries was held at Cairo from 18 to 23 August 1986.

2. The Meeting was attended by 78 delegations from the following members of the Group of 77, many of which were headed by Ministers or other high-ranking officials: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine Liberation Organization, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

3. The Chairmen of the Group of 77 in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome and Vienna participated.

4. Representatives from the following offices and organizations of the United Nations system were also present at the Meeting: Department of International Economic Cooperation of the United Nations Secretariat, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

5. Representatives from the following organizations and research institutes of the developing countries also attended the Meeting: Association of State Trading Organizations of Developing Countries, International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries and Research Centre for Cooperation with Developing Countries.

### **B. Election of Officers**

6. At its opening session, the Meeting elected by acclamation His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, as President of the Meeting. The Meeting also elected by acclamation His Excellency Mr. Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh, and Ambassador Enrique Ter Horst of Venezuela, as Vice-Presidents.

### **C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

7. The Meeting decided to meet in plenary for a general debate and established two open-ended working groups on the ECDC Trust Fund and support of the United Nations system to economic cooperation among developing countries. The Working Group on the Trust Fund was chaired by Mr. Ter Horst, Vice-President of the Meeting. The Working Group on the United Nations system and economic cooperation among developing countries was chaired by Mr. Dubey, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

8. The Bureau of the Meeting was assisted by the Core of Assistants to the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and by representatives of the host country.

#### **D. Documentation**

9. The Meeting had before it the following documents prepared by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York:

- (a) Review of economic cooperation among developing countries- Ideas for future work (report of the Chairman);
- (b) Supporting mechanisms;
- (c) ECDC Trust Fund.

10. A series of information documents was also distributed at the Meeting.

#### **E. Opening statements**

11. The Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Ali Lotfi, Prime Minister of Egypt, who delivered on behalf of His Excellency Muhamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, a message to the conference. In his message, President Mubarak emphasized the importance of the Meeting, coming five years after the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action. He stated that South-South Cooperation (SSC) must remain the main pillar of the strategy and giant efforts of the Group of 77. It could also serve as a response and an answer to the world economic crisis as well as an effective means for improving the position of developing countries and their collective bargaining power. He stressed the importance of assessing the progress achieved so far and the need to identify impediments to economic cooperation among developing countries. The time had come, he said, to give a new impetus to the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action on the basis of a realistic and objective assessment of available resources.

12. The interim Chairman of the Meeting, His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Tabakovic, Member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, on behalf of the members of the Group of 77, paid tribute to the Government and people of Egypt for hosting the High-level Meeting and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the warm reception accorded.

13. At the opening session, a statement was also delivered by His Excellency Mr. K. R. Narayanan, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, as the representative of the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. Mr. Narayanan underlined the importance of this Meeting, especially since it was being held on the eve of the Eighth Summit of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries at Harare, Zimbabwe. He emphasized that in this period of great stress for the world economy South-South cooperation had become a historical necessity and a logical response to the challenge of development in a grossly unequal world economic order.

14. In his statement before the opening session, Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, said the philosophy of collective self-reliance comprised a positive concept emphasizing that it was not an alternative to North-South relations. He emphasized the importance of a sustained and fruitful coordination between the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 in all economic fields. He concluded that the critical economic situation in Africa reflected the manifold problems of developing countries. He stressed on behalf of the Meeting support to and solidarity with the two brotherly peoples struggling for their liberty in South Africa and Namibia. He reaffirmed the need for a just solution to the Palestinian question, through the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination.

15. In his address to the Meeting, the Chairman of the Group of 77, His Excellency Ambassador Ignac Golob, emphasized that the consideration of the issue of economic cooperation among developing countries should be raised to a higher level and should be given a much greater role and priority both in national economic policies and international economic relations. He stressed that in order to make economic cooperation among developing countries prosper on a more lasting basis the Group of 77 should open and multiply all possible channels of communication among member countries, not only at the governmental but at all other relevant levels as well. He underlined that perceived economic benefit must become the basis in the selection of programmes and policies. He emphasized that it was only on that principle that programmes and projects adopted could be self-sustaining, self-generating and self-financing.

#### **F. Adoption of the final documents**

16. At its closing session the Meeting adopted the following documents:

- (a) Cairo Declaration on economic cooperation among developing countries (part I of the final documents)'
- (b) Decision on the economic conditions in occupied Palestinian territories (part III)
- (c) Resolution on southern Africa (part III)'
- (d) Report on the High-level Meeting on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, as contained hereunder.

#### **G. Operative paragraphs of the Report**

17. The Meeting reaffirmed the relevance of economic cooperation among developing countries as an indispensable means of restructuring international economic relationships for the benefit of developing countries. It reiterated the pivotal role South-South cooperation had in the context of the unfavorable international economic environment. The Meeting reaffirmed the political commitment of all developing countries to the goal of collective self-reliance and to that end the further elaboration and intensification of endeavors for economic cooperation among developing countries.

18. In this context, the Meeting reviewed the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action as a sectoral blueprint for concrete action. It was acknowledged that despite some achievements the results of that effort had largely lagged behind the needs and capacities of developing countries to produce concrete projects and programmes.

19. In defining a future course of action the meeting delineated certain ideas for future strategy.

20. The Meeting felt that a critical factor in the promotion of economic cooperation among developing countries was its integration into national policy-making. In that context developing countries needed to accord a greater priority to objectives of such cooperation enabling the adoption of specific domestic measures that allow for systematic exploration of the possibilities of economic cooperation among developing countries as a means of achieving national development goals. Only in that way could projects and programmes of economic cooperation among developing countries flow out of an assessment of national needs and priorities.

21. A scale of priorities to be outlined. Economic cooperation among developing countries needed to liberate itself from the paralysis of excessive thrust. Limited but sure progress was a better formula for increasing South-South cooperation than absolute goals that remained unimplemented.

22. According to the Meeting, a selective step-by-step approach to workable, implementable, realistic and above all economically viable programmes would appear to be the way for building the foundations of more ambitious schemes in the future.

23. Perceived economic benefit must become the basis in selecting programmes and policies pursued. It was only on that principle that programmes and projects adopted could be self-sustaining, self-generating and self-financing. Each project could not be expected to be of equal interest to all member countries. There should be scope, therefore, for a limited number of countries that perceived economic benefit in a particular proposal or project to move rapidly to taking such a project to the implementational stage, always leaving open the possibility of other countries subsequently joining the project. It was those criteria that would make economic cooperation among developing countries take root and become an essential tool for the development process of developing countries.

24. Action committees could play a vital role in strengthening the thrust of groups of countries in achieving desired projects and programmes. Such instruments, specifically mentioned in the Caracas Programme of Action as an important supporting mechanism, needed to be galvanized and activated.

25. More attention needed to be given to the mechanisms of implementation, to the mandatory and unavoidable spadework that needed to precede, at the micro level, the implementation of projects and programmes. That would require thorough examination of elements such as identification of beneficiary countries, economies benefits, complementarities, needs, finances, follow-up mechanisms and infrastructural requirements.

26. Technical meetings in different fields of economic cooperation among developing countries should be convened only after the identification, *inter alia*, of the following elements: identification of participation countries on the principle of perceived economic benefits, expert level attendance, and circulation in advance of adequate documentation. When held, such meetings should invariably consider the specific mechanisms for the implementation of the recommendations made and fix responsibility in that regard, the time framework for the implementation, resource requirements and how they could be met, and the concrete follow-up framework required. Further, the financing of meetings should become more and more the responsibility of the participating governmental and /or non-governmental entities with an interest in the concerned project or proposal.

27. Programmes of economic cooperation among developing countries must be provided the requisite professional underpinning. Professional consultancy organizations of competence are

available in developing countries and their expertise needed to be tapped more fully. Consideration should be given to methods of institutionally involving those organizations in the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action. Specific tasks and projects needed also to be allocated to research institutes in developing countries in order to involve them in a regular framework of support for the Group of 77.

28. The Meeting noted with appreciation the results of the Ministerial Meeting at Brasilia of the Negotiating Committee on the Global System of Trading Preferences among developing countries, held on 22 and 23 May 1986, which symbolized the political will of the signatories to make the concept of a Global System of Trade Preferences an operational reality. Among ongoing projects of the Group of 77, the Global System offered a real and significant opportunity to enhance trade cooperation among developing countries and to restructure the international trading system on a more equitable basis. The Meeting recognized the historic significance of the fact that it was for the first time that developing countries members of the Group of 77 had reached agreement on the Global System as a provisional legal framework for the conduct of the first round of negotiations, pending its signature and ratification and on the guidelines on techniques and modalities for the first round of negotiations. The Meeting called upon developing countries members of the Group of 77 that had not yet done so to join the Global System of Trade Preferences by notifying the Chairman of the Negotiating Committee, not later than the prescribed date of 1 October 1986 their intention to participate in the first round of negotiations, and also called upon members to submit request lists not later than the prescribed date of 31 December 1986 in order for negotiations for the exchange of concessions to commence, as agreed, from 1 January 1987. It welcomed the offer made by Yugoslavia at the Brasilia Ministerial Meeting to host a ministerial meeting of the Negotiating Committee after the completion of the first round of negotiations to be held, in principle, in September 1987.

29. The Meeting received with appreciation the report of the Executive Director of the Association of State Trading Organizations (ASTRO) and recognized the Association to be an important instrument for the expansion of trade among developing countries. The Meeting urged developing countries to encourage their State trading organizations to join ASTRO in order to expand its base of activities.

30. The Meeting stressed that a number of steps were necessary, including in the fields of payments unions, currency clearing arrangements, trade financing and trade information flows, in order to give further impetus to expanding trade flows among developing countries. To consider these matters a meeting of representatives of central banks and finance ministries of developing countries should be convened in cooperation and coordination with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York was requested to take the requisite steps to promote financial cooperation among developing countries.

31. Recalling the high priority given to the implementation of the Multisectoral Information Network, the Meeting reiterated the recommendations made on the subject by the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee at its fourth meeting and invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to pursue intensive consultation with interested countries to move into the preliminary phase of the pilot project with the aim of convening, no later than the first quarter of 1987, the technical panel of experts. The Meeting, noting that six countries had already notified the office of the Chairman in New York of their intention to participate in the project and that some countries had expressed their interest in the project, invited such countries to undertake, as a core group, promotional efforts to develop the project and enlarge its membership.



32. The Meeting realized that financial underpinning was an essential element in efforts towards economic cooperation among developing countries. The process as regards the South Bank needed to be further pursued. Several delegations pointed out that their position remains unchanged and that they could not associate themselves with the idea of the Bank and explained their reasons for such a position.

33. Initiatives in financial cooperation taken by developing countries at regional and sub-regional levels needed to be further strengthened and the possibility of elements of such cooperation being replicated in other regions needed to be examined.

34. The Meeting underlined the fact that the burden of external indebtedness represented a major constraint for the developing countries and that an urgent solution needed to be found in the appropriate forums.

35. Economic cooperation among developing countries should not be considered only as an exclusive intergovernmental exercise. Non-governmental organizations such as chambers of commerce and industry and end-user enterprises should be brought into the mainstream of such activities. Specifically, a meeting of representatives of chambers of commerce and industry of developing countries could be convened.

36. The Caracas Programme of Action had envisaged that national focal points would play a key role in the implementation of economic cooperation among developing countries. However, the system had not functioned effectively. In the light of the recommendations of the High-level Meeting, a meeting of national focal points should be organized as early as possible with an agenda exclusively devoted to examining what could be done to galvanize the network of national focal points. The meeting could be held on the occasion of the next session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee.

37. In several sectors regional economic groupings had made considerable progress in implementing objectives of economic cooperation among developing countries. There was a need to link such regionally strengthened cooperation to the interregional level by exchange of experience and information flows.

38. The Meeting invited member countries of the Group of 77 to participate in the work of the International Centre for Public Enterprises of Developing Countries and to make use of its activities on the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action where public enterprises were concerned.

39. The Meeting, having been apprised of the difficulties encountered in convening the third session of the Biennial Meeting of the National Heads of Technical Cooperation Agencies, invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to pursue his consultations so that that meeting was held before the next session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee.

40. The Meeting recommended that the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee, at its next session, should undertake a sectoral review of the Caracas Programme of Action with a view to furthering its implementation.

41. Further harmonization and coordination between the Group of 77 and the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries on the issue of economic cooperation among developing countries should be pursued. In that context, the joint report presented by the Chairmen of the Group of 77

and of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York to the fifth meeting of the Action Programme of Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement was of considerable importance.

42. In order to enable the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to effectively carry out his functions, it was essential that the Core of Assistants in the Office of the Chairman be brought up to full strength.

43. The Group of 77 Account for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries needed to rise above its present depleted position if it was to maintain the role of the Office of the Chairman and its associated functions in a galvanized framework of economic cooperation among developing countries. The Meeting emphasized that the Account should not merely be viewed as a practical means for financing follow-up activities of the Caracas Programme of Action, but to a certain extent also as an expression of political importance attached to its implementation. The meeting, while reaffirming the voluntary nature of the contribution to the Account, recommended that all member countries, specially those that had not yet done so, contribute at least \$1,000 as suggested in the Programme of Action, on the basis of the annual system of replenishment.

44. While financing for meeting already agreed upon would be provided from the Account according to present practice, in the case of future meetings under the Caracas Programme of Action the issue would be reviewed through consultations prior to the next Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee. In any event, it was agreed that scheduled meetings would not be abandoned or postponed on the grounds of the unavailability of financing from the Account.

45. Of importance also was the question of greater and more intensive coordination between the Group of 77 in different United Nations Centres. At the next session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee the Chairmen of the Group of 77 in different United Nations Centres should meet to discuss the specific question of improved coordination and submit their recommendations in that regard for inclusion in the Report of the Committee.

### **ECDC Trust Fund**

46. Recalling the great contribution to the furtherance of economic cooperation among developing countries of the late Manuel Perez-Guerrero, Minister of State for International Economic Affairs of Venezuela, and in particular the pioneering role he played in the holding of the Caracas High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was held in May 1981 and at which was adopted the Caracas Programme of Action, and, in the establishment of the ECDC Trust Fund, the Meeting decided, in honour of his memory, to name the ECDC Trust Fund as the Perez-Guerrero ECDC Trust Fund.

47. The Meeting adopted the following guidelines and modalities for the utilization of the ECDC Trust Fund:

- (a) Projects utilizing the Fund should be of such a nature that they lead to balanced and general benefits for the member countries of the Group of 77. These projects should be designed so as to have a maximum multiplier effect and, in the case of regional projects, serve as pilot projects for the other regions;
- (b) The objective of the ECDC Trust Fund is to provide seed money for (a) financing pre-investment / feasibility reports prepared by professional consultancy organizations in developing countries and (b) facilitating the implementation of projects.

- (c) Normally, only the interest accruing on the Fund should be utilized. This would preserve intact the core capital;
- (d) The Fund should not be used as a substitute for resources available to the United Nations agencies for undertaking activities in favour of economic cooperation among developing countries;
- (e) The utilization of the Fund shall be reviewed annually at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee;
- (f) A committee of six experts, two from each region of the Group of 77, acting in their personal capacities, is hereby established. The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, after consultations with member States of the Group, shall submit before the end of the year the names of the experts to the Group of 77 in New York for approval. The terms of office of the experts shall be two years. The establishment and functioning of this Committee shall not be a charge on the ECDC Trust Fund;
- (g) The task of this Committee of Experts shall be to prepare a list of projects in order of priority in respect of which the preparations of pre-investment / feasibility reports could be assigned to professional consultancy organizations available in developing countries. The report of the Committee of Experts shall also include all relevant financial implications;
- (h) The report of the Committee of Experts shall be circulated to Governments by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York at least one month in advance of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee. Both the Intergovernmental Committee and the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 would be empowered to approve the report of the experts;
- (i) Once the report is approved, pre-investment / feasibility reports shall be commissioned on a strictly time-bound basis. When available such pre-investment/ feasibility reports shall be circulated by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to all countries members of the Group of 77;
- (j) Countries or groups of countries, including action committees, will continue to have the possibility of submitting projects to the Intergovernmental Committee and/or Ministerial Meetings of the Group of 77 for financing from the ECDC Trust Fund. To the extent possible, the views of the Committee of Experts would be ascertained on these projects;
- (k) The implementation of project, including its financial aspects, would, on the principle of perceived economic benefit, be the responsibility of the participating countries.

48. The Meeting reiterated the importance of expeditiously setting up the Committee of Experts envisaged in the guidelines and emphasized that its report should be ready by the time of the next Session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

**Support of the United Nations, the United Nations System and other international organizations to Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries:**

49. The Meeting emphasized the important role of the United Nations, the Organizations of the United Nations system and other concerned international organizations, particularly the International Atomic Energy Agency, in promoting and strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Their contribution should continue both through their regular programmes and through the identification of and support for specific projects and activities.

50. The Meeting noted with appreciation the valuable work done by the United Nations, the United Nations system and other concerned organizations as reflected in the information provided

by them in response to the request of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in April 1986. The Meeting was of the view that such information should continue to be made available in the future as it enhances transparency of the work being undertaken by the United Nations and other concerned international organizations. The Meeting also recognized that in several instances the role of the United Nations organizations and agencies was mainly catalytic in nature.

51. The Meeting was of the view that there were sufficient mandates to enable the United Nations and other concerned international organizations to bring about further improvements in their policies, rules and procedures and to identify and support programmes and projects related to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

52. The Meeting noted that some organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned international organizations had taken initiatives to promote innovative approaches to develop viable projects designed to promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In this context, the Meeting underlined the importance of the role of the United Nations system in implementing, *inter alia*, the economic cooperation dimension of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (General Assembly Resolution S-13/2), adopted by the Assembly at its thirteenth special session. The Meeting emphasized the need for the United Nations and all other concerned international organizations to continue and to intensify efforts to integrate the dimension of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries into their work programmes.

53. The Meeting recommended that the Chairman of the Group of 77 should make necessary arrangements to ensure continuing dialogue between the Group of 77 and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on aspects regarding economic and technical cooperation among developing countries of the operational activities of the United Nations system.

54. The Meeting requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of all other concerned international organizations to include and strengthen elements of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their respective programme budget proposals and to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation arrangements for their implementation.

55. The Meeting was of the view that coordination within the United Nations system and all other concerned international organizations in the field of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries should continue to be further strengthened and that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary bodies and joint meetings of the ACC and the Committee for Programme and Coordination should focus on selected and clearly identified issues with a view to facilitating the implementation of viable programmes and projects.

56. The Meeting also urged the United Nations and all other concerned international organizations to find additional resources to be able to undertake an increased number of projects in the field of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to assist in the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of identified projects.

57. It was also the view of the Meeting that the support by the United Nations and all other concerned international organizations would be greatly facilitated by the strengthening of national focal points and by the ability of the developing countries to systematically pursue initiatives to promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the various

intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and all other concerned international organizations.

58. The Meeting also noted that while pursuing the project on the Multisectoral Information Network, the Group of 77 should make every effort fully to utilize existing information systems in the United Nations system and other concerned international organizations.

### **Other matters**

59. Background documentation and studies on various aspects and fields of South-South cooperation – made available to the participants of the High-level Meeting- prepared within the Research Programme on South-South Cooperation, coordinated by the Research Centre for Cooperation with Developing Countries of Yugoslavia and the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies, were greatly appreciated, and it was requested that all member countries of the Group of 77 should receive a complete set of the final versions of these documents through the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77. The Meeting supported the proposal of the two research institutes to develop the Research Programme on South-South Cooperation into a standing activity to be carried out by a network of interested specialized research institutes from developing countries.

60. The Meeting decided, after expressing its deep gratitude to the Government of Cuba for its offer to host the next Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee, to hold that Session in Cuba in 1987.

61. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the delegation of Malaysia on the South-South II Conference held in Kuala Lumpur in May 1986 and of its decision to establish a non-governmental independent commission of the South on development issues.

62. The Meeting welcomed the initiative taken by the Government of Indonesia to convene a technical meeting on cooperation among State trading organizations in the field of fertilizers, scheduled to be held at Jakarta from 21 to 24 October 1986.

63. It also welcomed the offer of the Government of Cuba to host the Meeting on Consultancy, Building and Engineering in March 1987.

64. The Meeting emphasized that these technical meetings should take into account the guidelines on technical meetings as adopted in this Report, and as laid down in *A Guide to ECDC: Supplement to the ECDC Handbook* published by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in 1983.

65. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the results achieved at the third meeting of the Coordinating Non-aligned Countries in the fields of agriculture and food, which met at Rabat, Morocco, from 28 to 31 July 1986, and which, in a spirit of continuity, laid great emphasis in its recommendation on economic cooperation among developing countries.

### **H. Acknowledgements**

66. The Meeting expressed deep appreciation to the President, the Government and the people of Egypt for their hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

67. The Meeting expressed its profound gratitude for the opportunity to be received by His Excellency the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the audience His Excellency President Mubarak urged the delegates to renew their determination to rely on their own strength and resources in the development process of their respective countries.

#### **I. Closure of the Meeting**

68. The President of the Meeting, His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, closed the Meeting by emphasizing the steadfast political commitment evidenced at the Meeting to the principles and objectives of the Group of 77. He expressed the hope that the positive results achieved at the Meeting would have a considerable impact on the future course of economic cooperation among developing countries. He thanked the High-level delegations that participated in the Meeting and commended their efforts in ensuring its successful outcome.

69. The President also expressed his special appreciation to the Chairman of the Group of 77, Ambassador Ignac Golob, and to the Core of Assistants in preparing the basic documents for the Meeting and drawing up the final report.

#### **III. Decision and Resolution adopted at the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries**

##### **Decision on the economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories**

The High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries,

*Convinced* that the continued occupation of the Palestinian territories is hindering the Palestinian people from fully utilizing their own natural resources to the benefit of their economic and social development and from participating fully in activities of economic cooperation among developing countries,

*Reaffirms* the need for a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Palestinian question in order to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination including their right to establish their independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole and legitimate representative, in fulfillment of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations.