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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 10 October 1983 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of  
Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 concluded their meeting this afternoon by adopting a Declaration (annex). The Declaration covers important economic issues in the field of multilateral co-operation for development, as well as various important issues of concern to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. Specifically, the Declaration will have an important bearing on deliberations under agenda items 12, 38, 78 and 79. I enclose herewith a copy of the Declaration for your information and perusal.

It would be appreciated if you would please arrange for the Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 to be circulated as a United Nations document in order to facilitate further deliberations during the current session of the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items.

(Signed) Farooq SOBHAN  
Ambassador  
Chairman of the Group of 77

ANNEX

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

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held their seventh annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 6, 7 and 10 October 1983 to review the world economic situation and the state of international co-operation for development since their last meeting in October 1982 and to prepare for the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The Ministers also undertook a thorough review and appraisal of the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries.

I

1. The Ministers noted with grave concern that the world economy was engulfed in the most pervasive and dangerous crisis since the 1930s and that the negative impact of the crisis, which originated in some of the major industrialized countries, had been the greatest on developing countries. They observed that by any indicator of economic growth, the situation in developing countries, particularly that of the least developed countries, was critical and alarming. They found that the development process in the developing countries had been severely disrupted and had virtually come to a halt in many. They also noted with profound disquiet the fact that a harsh adjustment process had been imposed on the developing countries. They stressed the heavy toll that the inadequate and inequitable international trade, monetary and financial system had inflicted on the economies of developing countries, with consequent stagnation, and even decline, of growth. They noted that international trade had entered a period of stagnation and retrogression, asphyxiated by commodity price volatility, growing protectionist barriers and the burden of foreign debt, thus making it impossible for the developing countries to sustain their required levels of economic activity. The Ministers expressed concern at the painful steps that had consequently been forced on many of their Governments for curtailing drastically the size of their development programmes.

2. The Ministers deeply regretted the lack of progress towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order. In this context, they recalled with a profound sense of disappointment that the fact that the principal industrialized countries had not yet responded to the counterproposals of the Group of 77 put forth more than 15 months ago to launch the global negotiations. They deplored the fact that, after more than four years of strenuous negotiations in which the Group of 77 had shown a continuous spirit of accommodation and flexibility, it had not been possible to launch the Global Round of Negotiations, owing to the continued lack of political will of some developed countries. In the same vein, they also deplored the lack of real progress obtained in UNCTAD VI. The Ministers also expressed their concern at the lack of agreement on immediate measures in favour of developing countries, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 37/252 of 21 December 1982.

3. The Ministers reiterated that the deterioration of economic conditions in the world was primarily a consequence of underlying structural maladjustments in virtually all areas of the international economic system and that unless urgently resolved, the present world economic crisis would not only worsen, but would seriously endanger global peace and stability.
4. In order to surmount the crisis, both the immediate and structural problems of the world economy and of the existing international economic order needed to be addressed fully and in an integrated manner. Adequate responses would require the adoption of appropriate and concerted policies by the international community, particularly by the developed countries in view of their responsibility for the current crisis. In this context a global and integrated approach was required that reflected the interdependence of developed and developing countries and the interrelated character of problems affecting the international economic system. A strengthening of international monetary and financial co-operation directed at rapid and sustained development, particularly of developing countries, was among the essential steps to be taken for overcoming the immediate and structural problems of the international economy and in order for domestic efforts to yield positive results.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed that the global and structural character of the current economic crisis called for global solutions and that no country or group of countries, however powerful, was in a position to pull the world economy out of its present crisis single-handedly and put it on a healthy course of recovery, growth and development. They also noted that though recent indications pointed to some alleviation of economic stagnation in certain developed countries, a sustained long-term recovery was nowhere in sight. They stressed that there could not be a sustained and lasting recovery without a restructuring of the current world economic system.
6. The Ministers strongly affirmed the legitimacy of the intensification, adoption and application of economic sanctions and other measures in the struggle against apartheid, racism, all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism, which constituted major obstacles to the emancipation of developing countries and peoples. In this regard, they emphasized the rights of developing countries, individually and collectively, to adopt such sanctions and other measures, as was reaffirmed in the recent regional conferences on action against apartheid held at Manila in 1982 and at Caracas in 1983.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong belief that urgent, more vigorous and concrete steps and actions still remained to be taken collectively and individually, by all the members of the international community in order to end, without delay, colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racism, all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, hegemony, expansionism and exploitation, which constituted major obstacles to the economic emancipation of the developing countries. They stressed again that it was the duty of all States to support effectively and extend assistance to the countries, territories and peoples still subjected to and affected by those 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 urged all countries to refrain from participating in encouraging or promoting in any way any investment or economic activities aimed at trade with or exploitation of any resources or investment in economic activities in the territories subjected to the aforementioned practices. The Ministers reiterated their unswerving support for the heroic struggle of the peoples of Namibia, 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, had suffered military aggressions from the racist régime.

8. The Ministers urged all countries to make a determined effort to take joint action towards the establishment of a sound and just basis for the world economy for the benefit of all in a constructive spirit of international solidarity, understanding and mutually beneficial co-operation to ensure the survival and welfare of humanity.

9. Keeping the above in mind, as well as the outcome of international gatherings held since their last meeting on global economic co-operation, the Ministers called for appropriate joint action and positive response from all in the following areas for the restructuring and reactivation of the world economy and accelerated growth and development in developing countries:

(a) The Ministers reiterated that the Global Round of Negotiations continued to be a matter of utmost importance to the developing countries and expressed their determination to pursue it vigorously through a coherent, integrated and simultaneous treatment of the issues involved. They emphasized that the Global Round of Negotiations envisaged in General Assembly resolution 34/138 of 14 December 1979 should be launched at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the basis of the two-phase approach formulated by the Seventh Summit meeting of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi in March 1983, and endorsed by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held at Buenos Aires.

(b) The Ministers reaffirmed that immediate measures in favour of the developing countries in areas of critical importance to them should be agreed upon to contribute to the easing of their present economic problems, in accordance with the Programme of Immediate Measures of the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit and the relevant decisions of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77. In view of the seriousness of the problems and their urgent nature, those measures needed to be adopted without further delay in the conferences and meetings of the United Nations system. In this context, the efforts that had been undertaken at UNCTAD VI should be pursued. At its thirty-eighth session the General Assembly could play an important role in providing the necessary impetus and direction within the United Nations system.

(c) The Ministers stressed that the convening of an intergovernmental international conference on money and finance for development, with universal participation, should be vigorously pursued, as proposed by the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit and endorsed by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77. The

Ministers stressed that intensive preparation would be necessary in that regard. The existing international monetary and financial system was outdated and inequitable and required comprehensive reform. They recognized that the harmonization of various proposals recently put forward in that connection could contribute to the early convening of such an international conference.

(d) The Ministers further stressed that the immediate measures, including an international conference on money and finance for development should be acted upon without any prior conditions and should become, as appropriate and in accordance with the relevant decision of the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit and the Buenos Aires Platform, an integral part of the Global Negotiations once they were launched.

(e) The Ministers expressed serious concern at the aggravation of the world economic crisis through an accelerated arms race that jeopardized the world economy and the development process of the developing countries. They called for halting of the arms race and effective disarmament measures that would release valuable additional resources for the purposes of development beneficial to all. They reiterated the need for the sincere commitment of the international community to the disarmament process, which has an undeniable linkage with the development of the developing countries.

(f) The Ministers expressed their deep concern that some developed countries were resorting more and more frequently to the application of coercive and restrictive measures of increasing scope as an instrument for exerting political pressure on some developing countries, and reaffirmed that all developed countries should refrain from applying trade restrictions, blockades, embargoes and other economic sanctions incompatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in violation of undertakings contracted multilaterally, as well as bilaterally, against developing countries as a form of political coercion that affect their economic, political and social development.

(g) The Ministers also noted the ongoing trends that erode the basis of multilateral co-operation and called for the support of the international community, particularly the developed countries, for a new multilateralism founded on the systematic co-ordination of policies involving all groups of countries on a global basis, aimed at promoting equitable growth and affecting orderly structural changes in the world economy.

(h) The Ministers called for a stronger and more vibrant United Nations system, which alone could effectively handle the complex and interrelated problems facing the international community today. Faith in the United Nations system needed to be reiterated through concrete, effective and forward-looking commitment on the part of all Member States.

(i) The Ministers expressed concern at the hardening of attitudes towards multilateral aid, which has severely disrupted the development programmes financed by international agencies in the developing countries. They called for a substantial increase in the flow of multilateral official development assistance and other multilateral finance on a continued and assured basis on terms that developing countries could afford.

(j) The Ministers reiterated the importance of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and emphasized the need for attaching priority to that area of activity in the plans and programmes of the United Nations. They noted with concern the declining resources available for operational activities, resulting in the disruption of the development activities supported by the organizations of the United Nations system in developing countries and called for substantial and real increases in the flow of resources for operational activities and, in particular, for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to maintain and increase the effectiveness of the operational programmes of the United Nations system. Therefore, the Ministers urged all Governments, especially those of developed countries, to contribute substantially to the operational activities of the United Nations system at the forthcoming Pledging Conference of the United Nations. The Ministers endorsed the Declaration of the Group of 77 on operational activities, made at Geneva on 28 July 1983.

(k) The Ministers expressed their disappointment at the slow pace of implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. They called upon the international community to implement fully and effectively the Substantial New Programme of Action and provide financial assistance to the least developed countries in amounts and terms corresponding to their immediate and long-term development needs.

(l) The Ministers expressed the view that international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the regional development banks, should play a greater role in assisting the development process in the developing countries through appropriate measures. They also noted the important role those institutions could play to relieve the developing countries of their debt burden. The Ministers affirmed their determination to vigorously pursue the policy measures set out in the Buenos Aires Platform with regard to monetary and financial issues. They urged Governments of developed countries, the international financial institutions and the United Nations system to take immediate, appropriate and effective actions in this vital area in order to, inter alia, halt the present reverse transfer of financial resources and ensure a substantial increase in liquidity and reserves to the developing countries, accelerate the flows of concessional and other multilateral financial flows and restructure their debts in a manner compatible with their economic and social development. They noted with concern the recent measures adopted by the IMF that had the effect of stiffening conditionality and adversely affected ODA flows to developing countries. They also expressed particular concern at the recent decision of the Interim Committee of the IMF to reduce access to IMF quotas.

(m) The Ministers urged an early conclusion of the negotiations on replenishment of IDA VII and stressed that the replenishment should be in the order of \$US 16 billion, as assessed by the World Bank, in order to achieve a substantial increase in financial flows to all its recipient countries particularly the least developed countries.

(n) The Ministers called for closer co-ordination between the Group of 77 and the Group of 24 to promote the interests of the developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various international fora. They noted the idea of holding a conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Trade to discuss, in an integrated manner, the position of the Group in the fields of money, finance and trade in international negotiations and agreed that further consultations would be held on the matter among members.

(o) The Ministers emphasized the need for implementation of the Integrated Programme of Commodities and in this connection urged all concerned to facilitate early conclusion of the international commodity agreements. They welcomed the decision of UNCTAD VI that the operations of the Common Fund for Commodities should commence on 1 January 1984 and urged all States which have not done so to ratify the Common Fund Agreement as a matter of priority to enable the Fund to commence operations on that date.

(p) The Ministers noted the decision taken at UNCTAD VI regarding the complementary financing facility and reiterated the need for speeding up the preparatory process for a negotiating conference on a complementary facility for commodity-related shortfalls in export earnings. They also reaffirmed that the purchasing power of the developing countries export earnings must be protected and that action in this regard was vital not only for their own development but also for the recovery of the world economy.

(q) The Ministers reaffirmed that developed countries should establish specific time-bound programmes for the elimination of all protectionist measures, including subsidies, which prejudiced the trading opportunities of developing countries. Any action programmes would take into account the relevant interests of those developing countries currently enjoying special advantages and would meet the need for finding ways and means of protecting their interests. The Ministers further expressed deep concern at the disruptive market practices applied by certain developed countries against developing countries through, inter alia, a system of trade barriers and export subsidies that continued to prevent the full utilization of the production and export capacity of the developing countries in various agricultural products, particularly food. They also reiterated the need to continue and accelerate negotiations on protectionism and structural adjustment being held by the Trade and Development Board with a view to achieving the objectives in this field included in the Buenos Aires Platform. In this context, they noted the UNCTAD VI decision regarding halting and roll-back of protectionism and expressed hope that the decision would be implemented in its letter and spirit.

(r) The Ministers noted the action taken by some countries to implement Trade and Development Board resolutions 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978 and urged the developed countries to implement fully and expeditiously the agreement therein for the conversion of all outstanding bilateral financial assistance loans into grants for the least developed countries.

(s) The Ministers expressed serious concern at the deteriorating food and agriculture situation in many developing countries, especially in Africa. They called for increased international financial and technological assistance to

supplement the national efforts of those countries in the field of food and agriculture aimed at eradication of hunger and malnutrition as soon as possible and latest by the year 2000. They also called for an increase in the flow of resources for investment for the development of indigenous production and research capacities of developing countries in food and agriculture. The Ministers called for immediate establishment of a food security system, inter alia, through a system of developing-country-owned food reserves, and for an increase in the targets of the International Emergency Food Reserve and of the Food Aid Convention. They also called for appropriate steps to guarantee developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, minimum and immediate food supplies in times of world-wide shortages. The Ministers strongly recommended the use of food as an instrument of political pressure and cautioned against any kind of conditionality for supply of food aid. They decided that the food and agricultural issues should be kept at the centre of the global agenda.

(t) The Ministers stressed the importance of the forthcoming process of review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the convening of the session of the Committee of Universal Membership for the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in 1984. They expressed disappointment at the failure of the developed countries to demonstrate the political will and firm commitment necessary for the implementation of the Strategy. They considered that, in the context of the aforementioned process, the international community should endeavour to identify the real causes for the lack of compliance with the policy measures contained in the Strategy and with the goals and objectives therein and to propose necessary corrective measures in order for the instrument to contribute effectively to the development of developing countries and to the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

(u) The Ministers urged the appropriate follow-up action envisaged in General Assembly resolution 37/251 during the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly to remove the constraints on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries through the necessary financial and technological support.

(v) The Ministers welcomed the progress that had been made in regard to the establishment of long-term institutional and financial arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and strongly urged all countries to make the fullest effort at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly to ensure the successful finalization of outstanding issues, with a view to bringing the long-term arrangements into immediate and effective operation.

(w) The Ministers noted that, despite more than six years of negotiations on the United Nations Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations, some developed countries had made virtually impossible the completion of the Code of Conduct. This was particularly evident in the attitude taken by them regarding the final package prepared by the Chairman of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The ministers did not consider that it would be conducive to a successful conclusion of the Code to accept that package simply as a



new basis for further negotiations. Any action taken in the course of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, including the possible decision to resume negotiations on the Code would take those considerations into account.

(x) The Ministers reaffirmed that the brain drain had serious negative economic, political and social implications for developing countries and urged all States Members of the United Nations, particularly the developed ones, to fully participate in the efforts to formulate and implement a set of policies and measures in this regard in order to mitigate its adverse effects on the developing countries.

## II

10. The Ministers reaffirmed their full support for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC) and reiterated their conviction that it constituted an integral and essential part of the efforts of the developing countries to restructure international economic relations with a view to realizing the full potentials of the developing countries to bring about rapid social and economic development and to establishing the New International Economic Order. They emphasized that ECDC was not a substitute for co-operation between developed and developing countries, nor in any way relieved the developed countries of their responsibilities and commitments in support of the development efforts of developing countries on the basis of equity and mutual interest.

11. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the strategy for collective self-reliance, reiterated their belief that self-reliant development was essential for ensuring genuine independence of the developing countries and also for reducing the vulnerability of the developing countries to the effects of adverse international economic crises and outside pressures. They were convinced that given the current global economic difficulties, the developing countries should pursue more vigorously than ever before the objective of strengthening their collective self-reliance.

12. The Ministers welcomed the Declaration on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, as well as the resolution on future activities on ECDC and organization of the Group of 77, adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires, and they reiterated the commitment made to take, on a priority basis, all necessary measures through national policies and programmes to promote ECDC.

13. The Ministers also welcomed the Declaration on Collective Self-Reliance among Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, adopted at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries.

14. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress achieved at the Second Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination for ECDC (IFCC-II), held at Tunis from 5 to 10 September 1983, aimed at full and effective implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, and endorsed the "Tunis follow-up action for ECDC". They expressed their thanks to the Government of Tunisia for hosting IFCC-II and welcomed with thanks the offer of the Government of

Colombia to host the Third Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee for ECDC (IFCC-III).

15. The Ministers favourably evaluated the growing awareness of the imperative need for strengthening and broadening ECDC and the important progress that had been achieved in promotion of ECDC at bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels, including raising national interest and awareness in favour of economic co-operation among developing countries through all available means.

16. Nevertheless, the Ministers recognized the obstacles that more advanced stages of economic co-operation among developing countries could encounter and therefore emphasized the importance for the developing countries to adopt further policy measures at various levels. In this context, the Ministers requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to explore and propose to the Group, within the framework of the Caracas Programme of Action, the Buenos Aires Platform and the Tunis Follow-up Action for ECDC, ways and means to carry out action-oriented activities.

17. The Ministers reviewed the progress made in implementing the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC and commended the significant efforts made in holding 18 technical meetings over the past two years. They expressed their appreciation to the Governments that hosted various meetings within the framework of the Caracas Programme of Action considering this a concrete and valuable contribution to the promotion of ECDC. They noted that the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action was entering a new and more action-oriented phase directed towards generating tangible, concrete and mutually beneficial results, which called for the developing countries to impart fresh impetus to achieve full and accelerated implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action. Accordingly, the Ministers:

(a) Emphasized the need for holding the remaining technical and follow-up meetings under the Caracas Programme of Action, as scheduled, and decided that all those meetings should be completed by the end of June 1984. Efforts should be made to hold appropriate sectoral review meetings during 1984 and 1985, as recommended by the Second Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee. They reiterated the need for and the importance of the widest possible participation by members of the Group in those meetings and urged the members to make special efforts to send experts to those technical meetings.

(b) Reiterated the importance of adopting appropriate modalities and mechanisms at the operational level, such as Action Committees, as highlighted in the IFCC-II, meetings of heads of national agencies, experts groups and other similar meetings, and national research and training centres of multinational scope, for the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action in particular fields. They welcomed the decision to form such intergovernmental bodies and urged interested member countries and, as the case might be, their enterprises and institutions, to take concrete action in this regard.

(c) Stressed the role of national focal points as pivotal mechanisms and strongly supported the action recommended by the Second Inter-Governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee to strengthen their role. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of the members of the Group

had already designated national focal points and urged those members that had not done so to designate their national focal points and to make them operational as soon as possible.

(d) Stressed the vital role of systematic exchange of information in the promotion and strengthening of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and called on the members to work actively towards the establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network as one of the highest priorities for further action on ECDC, in accordance with the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee.

(e) Noted with satisfaction that a large number of members had notified their intention to participate in the negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP). They invited all developing countries that had not done so to join those negotiations urgently with a view to enabling the GSTP Negotiating Committee to take effective measures for early conclusion of the negotiations. In this context, the Ministers requested the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide full support for the conduct of these negotiations.

(f) Expressed strong support for the strengthening of financial and monetary co-operation among developing countries and urged the continuation and intensification of efforts to explore avenues for the promotion of such co-operation. In this context, they agreed that early follow-up action should be taken by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at IFCC-II, taking into account the views expressed in that meeting, and invited interested countries to participate in this action.

(g) Noted that the draft statute of the Association of State Trading Organizations had been elaborated and would come into force as soon as the required minimum number of 15 State trading organizations from developing countries had signed it. They expressed the hope that the Association would be established at the earliest possible date, preferably before the end of the current year.

(h) Recognized the importance of producers' associations as one of the means for developing countries to effectively secure fair and remunerative prices for their exports and to increase their export earnings. They stated that the adoption of firm and concerted measures by producers' associations, the strengthening of these associations and the establishment of new ones would be an effective contribution towards that end.

(i) Stressed the importance of pursuing further efforts with regard to the harmonization of ECDC programmes of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement as a continuing exercise.

(j) Emphasized that closer co-ordination among all chapters of the Group of 77, including the Group of 24, was vital to the efficacious implementation and follow-up of the Caracas Programme of Action and decided that the recommendations of IFCC-II to that end should be observed.

(k) Considering that harmonization of the tenure of the Chairmen of various chapters of the Group of 77 could be useful, called for urgent consultations in this regard by the members of the Group and decided that serious consideration should be given to the matter at IFCC-III for submission of appropriate recommendations to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their next annual meeting in 1984 in New York.

(l) Expressed their appreciation to the members who had contributed to the ECDC account and appealed to all members to contribute generously to this account.

(m) Also appealed to Governments to try to ensure that the full complement of the Core of Assistants was provided to the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York on a full-time basis to enable him to discharge effectively his increased responsibilities towards implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, as recommended by IFCC-II. In this context, they expressed their appreciation for the useful work being carried out by the Core of Assistants, and reiterated their thanks to the Governments that had seconded those officials to assist the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, as provided for under the Caracas Programme of Action.

(n) In view of the increased responsibilities for implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, which at the current stage would often require inputs from specialists, invited Governments to provide, at their expense, the Chairman of the Group in New York with experts to perform temporary tasks.

(o) Emphasized the role of and the need for greater co-ordination among the economic groupings of the developing countries for promotion and strengthening of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, bearing in mind the value of their practical and operational experiences for the effective implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

(p) Recognizing the importance of the contribution that the organizations and research institutes of developing countries could and had been making towards the promotion of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, they stressed that there should be greater co-operation and co-ordination between the Group of 77 and those organizations and institutions towards the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

(q) Requested the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take effective measures to support implementation of the recommendations of IFCC-II to further strengthen co-operation between the Group and those organizations and bodies for the promotion of ECDC and the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

(r) Decided to monitor closely the developments with regard to the promotion of ECDC aimed at the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action and to carry out a further in-depth review of the matter in 1985.

III

18. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the continuous strengthening of the unity and solidarity of the developing countries in their efforts towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

19. The Ministers decided that the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 should be commemorated by the Group on 15 June 1984.

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