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

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 28 September 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held their 8th annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group, and adopted the ministerial Declaration annexed hereto.

The Declaration contains major statements on international development co-operation, and on items of interest to the General Assembly. In particular, the Declaration will make an essential contribution to agenda items 38 and 80.

Accordingly, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 38 and 80.

(Signed) Ambassador Porfirio MUÑOZ-LEDO  
Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77

ANNEX

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

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held their 8th annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters from 26 to 28 September 1984, in the year marking the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77, and issued the following declaration.
2. The Ministers reviewed the activities and achievements of the Group of 77 over 20 years of common efforts. They stressed their satisfaction that the Group had emerged as a major factor on the international economic scene. They reaffirmed the unwavering unity of the Group, born out of the convergence of the historical interests of its members, and its determination to pursue efforts aimed at the establishment of a more just and equitable system of international economic relations based on a democratic framework.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed the continuing validity of the principles guiding the Group of 77. They also reiterated their commitment to and the continuing relevance of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) and to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX)), which had been adopted 10 years earlier on the initiative of the developing countries.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed the strong commitment of their Governments to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as their full support to the United Nations and its central role as a unique forum for negotiations and international economic co-operation. They expressed their deep concern at the rapid erosion of the principles and norms governing the United Nations system and at the increasing attempts by some major economic powers to replace concerted actions of a universal scope with bilateral and sectoral unco-ordinated approaches and thus undermine multilateralism. In this regard, they also expressed their determination to resist all such attempts and to continue working towards strengthening the democratization of the decision-making procedures in the multilateral forums.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the principles of self-determination and independence and to resist the imposition of models or patterns of social and economic development alien to their own traditions and national aspirations. In this context, and reaffirming the principle of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and the right of each country to choose freely its political, economic and social system, the Ministers renewed their condemnation of the recourse to political and economic coercion against developing countries and reiterated the need to adopt appropriate actions to avoid implementation of such practices.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong belief that urgent, more vigorous and concrete steps and actions 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.

7. Recognizing the link among disarmament, peace and development, the Ministers reaffirmed their urgent appeal to halt the arms race and to use the resources thus released for the development of the developing countries.

8. The Ministers expressed grave concern at the critical state of the world economy. While the economic recovery in developed countries remained uneven and its durability was in no way guaranteed, most developing countries continued to experience stagnant or declining growth rates. The developing countries continued to be confronted with an adverse external environment characterized by declining commodity prices, sharp exchange-rate fluctuations, deterioration in the terms of trade, increased protectionism, very high real interest rates, crushing debt burdens, reverse transfer of financial resources, decline of official development assistance (ODA) in real terms and the resource crisis experienced by the multilateral development financing institutions. The Ministers observed that the ever-widening gap between the developed and developing countries was a result of the inequities and inequalities inherent in the existing system, and that the crisis was not merely a cyclical phenomenon but the manifestation of deep-rooted structural imbalances and disequilibrium. Therefore, they observed that sustained and balanced growth of the international economy required an equitable adjustment process.

9. The Ministers reiterated their deep concern at the devastating repercussions that the current international economic crisis was having on the economies of the developing countries and the peoples of those areas. They emphasized the urgent need for the international community to undertake actions to overcome this crisis and to secure harmony, equity and justice in international relations and the restructuring of the world economy.

10. The Ministers expressed their concern with the policies adopted by some developed countries and international financial institutions that affected the development prospects of developing countries, threatening to exacerbate the magnitude and scope of the present international economic crisis, with unpredictable consequences.

11. They also deplored the continued impasse in international economic negotiations - resulting from the fact that some developed countries were not living up to their commitments. They particularly regretted attempts to erode the

international consensus for development that had existed and attempts, in some areas, to deny such a consensus. In this regard, they called upon developed countries for the renewal of a positive interest in development issues capable of transforming the sterile dialogues, through genuine political will, into serious negotiations to provide constructive and lasting solutions of development problems.

12. The Ministers reaffirmed their belief in the concept of interdependence as a basis of mutually beneficial co-operation among all countries. They regretted that, while acknowledging interdependence, some developed countries continued to follow policies detrimental and damaging to developing countries. They reiterated that interdependence should lead to co-operative endeavours for the benefit of all countries and should eliminate the widening gap between the developed and developing countries.

13. The Ministers reaffirmed their full commitment to global negotiations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/138 and further reaffirmed the continuing validity and relevance of the strategy adopted at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi (see A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2), and endorsed by the Group of 77 at its Fifth Ministerial Meeting, held at Buenos Aires, and they renewed their call on developed countries to show genuine political will to enable the launching of those negotiations. The Ministers deplored the fact that, in spite of the pragmatic, constructive and flexible attitude consistently displayed by the Group of 77 and its positive efforts made during consultations on the subject of the launching of global negotiations, the achievement of this important objective had not been possible because of the lack of political will of a few developed countries. In this regard, the Ministers entrusted the Group of 77 in New York to assess the situation in order to determine the appropriate steps to be taken during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

14. The Ministers expressed profound concern at the critical economic situation in Africa, which was aggravated by the combined impact of an adverse international economic situation and by persistent drought, desertification and other natural disasters. They were convinced that, if not reversed, current trends could considerably worsen the situation, thus endangering the economic and social fabric of African countries and thereby hampering the prospects for their rehabilitation and sustained development. They expressed their solidarity with the African countries and expressed their determination to give priority to the issue at the current session of the General Assembly. They therefore urged the international community, particularly the developed countries and international financial institutions, to adopt and implement concrete and effective measures to support the effort of the African countries in dealing with the short- and long-term aspects of the crisis.

15. The Ministers reaffirmed the need to keep food and agricultural issues at the centre of the global agenda and expressed their conviction that international action to deal with food and agricultural problems in developing countries should be considered in a comprehensive manner in their technical, economic, commercial, financial, social, cultural and political dimensions as well as in their immediate short-term and long-term perspectives. They emphasized the priority they attached

to the early eradication of hunger and malnutrition and to the attainment of self-sufficiency in food production in developing countries. To this end, they strongly urged the international community, especially developed donor countries and multilateral financial institutions, to increase their assistance at an adequate level to enable the developing countries, particularly the least developed and low-income food-deficit developing countries, to achieve the agreed upon targets for the food and agricultural sectors set out in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

16. The Ministers stressed the need for urgent action to address the deteriorating situation of developing countries in the field of commodities. In this connection, they reiterated that further efforts should be made to bring the Common Fund for Commodities into early and effective operation and to seek the full implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

17. The Ministers also expressed deep concern at the disruptive market practices applied by certain developed countries, incompatible with their international commitment, which continued to prevent the full utilization of the production and export capacity of the developing countries in various agricultural products, particularly food.

18. The Ministers reiterated, within efforts aimed at restructuring the international economic system, their determination to continue pressing for the restructuring of the international trading system to ensure the economic developmental needs of the developing countries and to facilitate an increased share of developing countries in the sustained growth of international trade. To this end, they urged developed countries to implement, in favour of developing countries, existing international trade liberalization commitments as a necessary first step towards the establishment of a just and equitable multilateral trading system. The Ministers also urged developed countries to resist domestic protectionist pressures, the use of export subsidies and other disruptive practices, and to adopt urgent measures towards achieving a substantially improved market access for exports from developing countries. In this regard, they called for early implementation of the work programme on protectionism and structural adjustment agreed upon by the Trade and Development Board. They affirmed the need for stability in the Generalized System of Preferences and called upon preference-giving countries to ensure the continuity, improvement and broadening of their Generalized System of Preferences schemes and to avoid the introduction into the system of discriminatory measures, including those applied under the concept of graduation.

19. The Ministers regretted that the outcome of the Fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization was not successful in spite of the goodwill shown by developing countries. They urged the developed countries to adopt a more positive attitude, during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in the consideration of the issue of industrialization.

20. The Ministers expressed grave concern at the decline in the flow of resources for development financing and at the reverse transfer of capital to the developed countries. They urged the developed countries and the international financial

institutions to remedy this grave situation by a massive mobilization of resources for the developing countries and by contributing to a reform of the monetary and financial system to permit the equitable and efficient operation of the world economy.

21. The Ministers reiterated the importance of convening the International Conference on Money and Finance for Development with universal participation, proposed at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and endorsed by the Group of 77 at its Fifth Ministerial Meeting, at Buenos Aires, and towards this end initiating the necessary preparatory process and urged developed countries to respond in a positive and constructive manner with a view to convening the Conference in early 1985. The Ministers stressed the need for the Secretary-General to immediately undertake consultations with Governments on the convening of the Conference. They expressed appreciation for the initiative taken by the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement in setting up an Expert Group to examine the substantive and procedural aspects of the proposed Conference. The Ministers took note of the report of the Expert Group. They decided to invite their Governments to examine that document.

22. The Ministers recognized that the external debt problems of developing countries were manifestations of the malfunction of the international economic system and felt that there was an urgent need to initiate a multilateral political dialogue between developing debtor countries and developed creditor countries in order to resolve the debt problems. They stated that those countries and concerned international banks, together with the international financial institutions, were jointly responsible for finding lasting solutions that would not only provide immediate debt relief, but would also cover lower interest rates, terms and conditions of debt rescheduling, appropriate conditionality, protectionist barriers, export earnings, commodity export shortfalls and sufficient financial flows. They urged the Governments of developed countries, the concerned international banks and international financial institutions to co-operate fully with the developing countries in seeking a global and comprehensive solution to the debt problems and to ensure resumption of development so that countries were not forced into insolvency with the risks that that would entail for international co-operation, peace and security.

23. The Ministers emphasized the imperative need to implement immediate measures in favour of developing countries - as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 38/200 - through concrete actions carried out within the framework of the United Nations system.

24. The Ministers expressed grave concern at the seriously deteriorating economic situation in the least developed countries, many of which had been experiencing a negative growth rate for several years now. They underlined the imperative need for providing those countries with the necessary support, including adequate ODA, in order to revitalize and accelerate their development process. In that context, they strongly urged the international community to contribute positively to the success of the mid-term global review on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA) in 1985 with a view to achieving its full and effective implementation. They also urged

that all outstanding bilateral ODA loans by developed countries to the least developed countries be converted into grants without delay.

25. The Ministers reiterated the full validity of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the need to achieve them and to implement and strengthen the policy measures of the strategy. They expressed deep regret at the inconclusive outcome of the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade established by the General Assembly, as a consequence of the inflexible attitude assumed by some developed countries. They urged developed countries to fulfil their commitments in regard to the Strategy, including an early completion of a meaningful mid-term review and appraisal.

26. The Ministers reiterated the high priority which they attached to the early and successful completion of the ongoing negotiations for the establishment of long-term arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, and urged all countries, particularly developed countries, to finalize promptly the financial arrangements to enable the launching of the System.

27. Taking into account the crucial and important role of human resources development and technical co-operation and training in the development process of the developing countries, the Ministers took note with appreciation and decided to give early and favourable consideration to the proposal for convening a United Nations conference on human resources development to discuss all dimensions of the subject on a multidisciplinary basis.

28. In reviewing the recent evolution of economic co-operation among developing countries, the Ministers stressed its overriding importance as a means of achieving collective self-reliance, of affirming their economic independence and of reducing their vulnerability, thus contributing to the establishment of the new international economic order.

29. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress made in economic co-operation among developing countries. They especially noted that the technical meetings envisaged in the Caracas Programme of Action (see A/36/333, annex) had now been completed and that the developing countries were now ready to develop specific projects at the subregional, regional and interregional levels in order to put their common objectives and programmes into practice. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 3rd meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee recently held at Cartagena, Colombia, and endorsed its recommendations.

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