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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC **CO-OPERATION**, IN PARTICULAR THE
REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CEREMONY FOR THE **PRESENTATION** OF THE DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION
ADOPTED BY WORLD LEADERS AT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Letter dated 4 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of **the** Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 3 **October** 1990 on the occasion of their fourteenth annual **meeting**, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate if you would arrange for the **present** letter and its annex to be circulated as an **official** document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 23, 35, 40, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 86, 90, 108, 148 and 151.

(**Signed**) Ambassador Hugo NAVAJAS-MOGRO
Permanent Representative of Bolivia
to the United Nations
Chairman of **the** Group of 77
New York

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 fourteenth annual meeting on 3 October 1990 in New York.
2. The Ministers were pleased to welcome the **unity of** both parts of Yemen and wished them success in their new statehood. They also requested the international community to assist the newly united country **in** the **promotion of its socio-economic** structures for the prosperity of its people.
3. The Ministers welcomed the independence of Namibia and noted that this would contribute to the emergence of a better climate for **peace and security in Southern Africa**. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the admission of Namibia as the **28th** member of the **Group of 77**.
4. The **Ministers reiterated** the principles **and objectives** set forth in the **Caracas Declaration** adopted in 1989, on the occasion of **the** twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of **the Group**, including the pending recommendations **regarding its organizational effectiveness**. These principles and objectives remain valid and should be assiduously pursued and implemented.
5. The Ministers **emphasized** the importance of carrying forward the **consensus** embodied in the Declaration on international economic co-operation, in particular the **revitalization** of the **economic** growth and development of the developing countries, adopted **by** the Eighteenth Special **Session** of the General Assembly on 1 May 1990. This **agreement constitutes a step toward a renewed North-South dialogue** on key areas of international co-operation for development. **While recognizing** the paramount importance of the political will and commitment of all countries to guarantee the implementation of the Declaration, they stressed that **this** will require full and effective use of the United Nations system. **To this effect, broad-ranging measures,** including **●** **review mechanisms, should be considered at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in its consideration of an item entitled "Implementation of the commitments and policies of international development co-operation agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries", in accordance with resolution 1990/54 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session.** The Ministers **likewise emphasized** that all countries should implement the Declaration through national policies and enhanced international cooperation aimed at the reactivation of **economic** growth and development of developing countries.

6. **The Ministers expressed** their strong hope that the Declaration **and the Plan of Action adopted** by the Heads of State **or Government** at the World Summit for Children on **30 September 1990** **would** be urgently and fully implemented.

7. The Ministers noted that after *seven years* of sustained growth in the developed **countries** and major adjustment efforts in many developing countries, the stagnation and decline in much of the developing world continued in 1989 **and the first part of** 1990. In this connection, the Ministers underlined the importance **of adopting and implementing** the International Development Strategy for the Fourth **United Nations Development Decade** **as a primary instrument to overcome the stalemate of the 1980s.**

8. The **Ministers** highlighted the importance **of solving** social problems in developing countries as **a necessary condition** for the revitalization of economic **growth and development of those countries.** They noted that the ultimate **goal of economic development** is the elimination of all factors which prevent social and economic advancement **of all human beings.** Therefore, steps should be taken to **improve** the human condition and to **maximize** the full potential of all members of the society, including **women and youth, in those countries** through the implementation **of domestic/national and international policies** directed towards the eradication **of poverty and hunger,** improvement in the **quality of human resources** by promoting education and training, increased employment opportunities and higher **labor productivity** in both rural and urban **areas,** higher levels of nutrition **and improved health, housing, as well as other social services.** The Ministers particularly stressed that measures should be **taken to counteract the** negative effects **of the economic conditions which prevailed during the past decade** which had **made inevitable in many cases the enforcement of** structural adjustment **programmes** which particularly affected the vulnerable groups **of people.**

9. The Ministers **reiterated the view** that although development is primarily a responsibility of the developing countries themselves, in an increasingly interdependent world, it also depends on a **favorable international economic environment.** They noted that **interdependence** affects countries differently, that is, in **accordance with their capacity and** relative impact on the world **economy** and that **it can** either reinforce the economic policies **for** development of **the** developing countries or counter them and cause their failure. This **poses new risks and challenges to new development strategies for** developing countries and makes a strong case for international co-operation **for development.** They **further** stressed the need **for** strengthening multilateral macroeconomic surveillance aimed at the correction **of major economic:** and financial imbalances within the world economy. In **addition,** they **emphasized** that the increasing

internationalization of the world **economy** required an equitable and effective **mechanism** of multilateral **macroeconomic** policy coordination which should allow for greater participation of developing countries and take into **account** their needs and concerns.

10. The Ministers took note of the profound economic and political changes taking place in the Eastern **European** countries and expressed their hope that the dynamic integration of those countries into the world **economy** will lead to more commercial opportunities and investment flows to developing countries. They emphasized that the new developments in **East-West** relations should be closely monitored **to guard** against further marginalization of the **developing** countries, particularly in trade and transfer of technology or the danger of reduced availability of **resources** for the development of the developing countries and the erosion of the benefit for **debt** relief recently secured by some of them. In this **regard**, the Ministers welcomed the decision taken by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the initiative of the **Group** of 77 to **convene** a Special **Ministerial** Meeting of the Council in 1991 devoted to **"the** impact of the recent evolution of **East-West relations** on the world economy, in particular on economic growth and development of developing countries" to be held in Geneva on 4-8 July 1991. They noted that this event, the first of its kind, deserves careful **preparation** by the Group of 77 and **therefore** called upon the developing country **members** of the Council as well as **observers** to be represented at this meeting at the ministerial level, to ensure the presentation of the views of the developing **countries** at the highest level.

11. The **Ministers** stressed that the Uruguay Round provides a **unique** opportunity to **promote** a truly open, credible, dynamic and durable multilateral trading system. Reiterating the need for a successful and balanced **outcome** of the Round which should promote in particular **the** developmental aspirations of **developing** countries, they emphasized that **this opportunity** must be seized by the international **community** in order to **generate** a new consensus, within **the** United Nations system, on all **aspects** of international **economic co-operation** in the field of trade and development. This consensus should **promote both** benefits for all its **Member States** and **opportunities** for a meaningful participation of developing countries in **the** international economy. **Furthermore**, they noted that the prevalent movement towards integration of new economic blocs in **Europe** and elsewhere should be directed towards greater openness of **the** world **markets** and should redound to the **benefit** of all countries. They further stressed that this process **should not, in any way, add to** the tendency towards **unilateralism**, bilateralism and other **forms** of protectionism and discrimination, which already seriously restrict access of exports from developing countries to the

markets **of** developed countries, impeding the **revitalization** of their economic growth and development.

12. The Ministers emphasized that the external indebtedness of developing countries remains a major hindrance to economic growth and development. They further **stressed** that in order to achieve a broad and durable solution **to the debt** problem, prompt, innovative **and** ample measures should be taken to significantly reduce the stock and service of **all** types of debt of all categories **of debtor** developing countries and to prevent the proliferation of the problem of indebtedness. Otherwise, the great **efforts** made so far by the governments **of** these countries to resume vigorous economic growth and sustained development, and to avoid political instability and social turmoil will **prove** unfruitful. In this connection, the **Ministers** reiterated the need **for** considering the establishment of an advisory committee **on debt and** development, **as** well as a possibility of establishing **an** international **debt** facility within the multilateral financial institutions.

13. The Ministers emphasized the critical role **of** concessional external resources for the development of the developing countries. They called upon the developed countries to redouble their **efforts** to implement their undertakings to attain the **agreed** international **target** of devoting **0.7%** of gross national product to official development assistance. They also urged the developed countries to **enhance** the quantity **and** quality **of** their aid.

14. The **Ministers** noted that, in the last decade, the sharp decline in the flow of resources to developing countries, their severe external indebtedness, deterioration in their terms **of** trade, depressed international commodity prices, and continued protectionism **and** other **trade** measures taken by the developed countries, both individually and collectively, have resulted in a substantial net transfer of **resources** from developing countries. They further noted that this transfer is rapidly increasing and has **become** the main obstacle to resumed economic growth and **development** **as** well as to political stability of developing **countries**. They stressed that urgent and immediate measures are required to halt and reverse this phenomenon.

15. The Ministers urged developed countries to **take** concrete actions aimed at improving the **access** to their **markets** for items of export interest to developing countries. The Ministers stressed that the trade policy reforms being undertaken by developing countries would be **frustrated** unless the **developed** countries took **positive** structural adjustment measures providing larger export possibilities to developing countries.

16. The Ministers noted the persisting commodity problems caused by the continued deterioration in the terms of trade which had

resulted in further reduction in export earnings of developing countries, **and** in Africa in particular. The efforts of these countries to diversify the commodity sector need to be **supported**.

17. The **Ministers emphasized** the importance of achieving **adequate** levels of industrialization in developing countries as one of the main **ways** to **assure** the reactivation **of** their economic growth and development. The Ministers also pointed out the necessity **of** properly assisting the different stages of industrialization in all developing regions, mainly through the strengthening of industrial infra-structures, the **modernization** of production capabilities, **and** the improvement of training techniques. **At** the same time, in selecting patterns **of** industrialization, the **developing** countries should take into account the possibilities of generating **employment**, human resource development **and** the ability to incorporate new and emerging technologies. In this connection, the Ministers urged that developed countries, as well as international **organizations**, should support the **efforts** made **by** developing countries to **improve** their levels **of** industrialization **by** providing **sufficient** financial resources, and opening the domestic markets of **developed** countries to manufactured exports coming from developing countries.

18. The Ministers stressed that the development **and** enhancement of endogenous capacities of developing countries in *the* fields of science **and** technology are **crucial for the economic growth** and development of those countries. Effective modalities **for** unimpeded access to **and transfer of** technology, particularly on concessional and preferential terms, to developing countries must be set **up**. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation **schemes**, including joint programmes **of** research **and** development, should be strengthened or initiated. The intellectual **property** rights **system** should not be used to create **further** constraints on **access** to technology **and transfer of** technology to **developing** countries. Therefore, any new **regime of** intellectual **property** rights should **take** into account the developmental concerns of developing countries **and** their **increased** need to have an unimpeded access to **foreign** technologies. The Ministers **expressed** their strong **concern** over multilateral and unilateral measures adopted **by** the developed countries that hinder the free flow of technology to the **developing** countries. Such **measures reinforce** the restricted access to **technology**, in particular **of** the new and emerging ones, and contribute to deepening the **gap** between **industrialized** and developing nations. **They** are contrary to **the** principles of free trade and inconsistent with the purpose **of** promoting development in the developing **countries** and making the world economy more **efficient** and more competitive.

19. The Ministers **reaffirmed** their conviction that there is, at present, **more** than ever before, a pressing need **for** a global framework of rules and principles aimed at promoting the access

to, diffusion, and transfer of technology at fair and equitable terms and conditions, both at the intergovernmental and **inter-enterprise** levels. Therefore, the Ministers reiterated their willingness to resume negotiations on an international **code** of conduct on the transfer of technology and were of the view that the United Nations Conference on an International **Code** of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology should be **reconvened** as **early** as possible.

20. The Ministers reiterated the special importance of food and agriculture in the development **of the developing countries**. They further **noted** that food and agricultural production in developing countries should expand to create a basis **for more rapid industrialization** and diversification of their economic structures, to **redress growing** imbalances in world production and enable them to become more self-reliant in the production **of their** basic foodstuffs. The Ministers also stressed that in **order** to achieve that goal, the main exporting developed countries shall avoid adverse effects on the economies of the developing countries while formulating and **implementing** their domestic agricultural policies and reverse the **disquieting** rise in protectionism, including export subsidies, taking into account the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing countries, considering their food security objectives and the need to avoid potentially adverse **effects** on their countries, specially the net food importing ones,

21. The **Ministers stressed** that the continued expansion of illicit production, consumption and trafficking **of** narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances requires the adoption of urgent measures **by** the international community. Those measures should include drastic reduction **and** eventual elimination of demand in the main consumer **centers** accompanied **by** crop substitution programmes and measures to strengthen international co-operation to facilitate trade flows and creation of expanded opportunities **for trade**, investment, in order to provide access to international markets for **crop** substitution products and other goods produced **by countries affected** by illicit production and processing of narcotic drugs and for **further** strengthening their **international** capacity to produce exportable goods. They further stressed that the financial and banking systems **should be prevented from money** laundrring activities of capital flows stemming **from** illicit traffic in drugs, and **effective** action must be taken to impede the diversion of raw materials and other specific chemicals to the illegal manufacture of narcotic **drugs**. They also called **for** the international community to take into account the problems of transit countries and of those **engaged** in licit production. **In** this regard, the **Ministers endorsed the** Political Declaration and called for the full implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by **the** seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, **supply,**

demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

22. The **Ministers** reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening of international co-operation for the protection and enhancement of the environment. Accordingly, the development dimension in its relation to environment should be of high priority. Therefore, a supportive international economic environment for the developing countries is essential. Moreover, development requires co-ordinated efforts in the North and South, in accordance with the capabilities of each country, with a view to promoting better standards of living which are not harmful to the environment. The **Ministers** noted that, since the main cause of the deterioration of the environment is the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption of developed countries, they have the main responsibility to combat world pollution; therefore, those countries should increase their **endeavore** in order to help developing countries in **their efforts** to deal with their own environmental problems, many of which originate **from** and have **strong** links to poverty. The Ministers **re-emphasized** the importance of international co-operation to provide the developing countries with new and additional financial **resources, as well as ensured access to, and transfer of** environmentally sound technologies **on** concessional and non-commercial **terms** without imposing any **forms of** conditionality. In this context, they stressed that negotiations on any **convention, umbrella agreement or instrument** on environment should include these provisions from the outset. Under no circumstances, should environmental **considerations** be used to justify **the** imposition of any **form** of restrictions which adversely affect the **developing** countries. The Ministers stressed that the **success** of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will depend on the strict and full compliance by **the developed** countries with the **commitments** agreed upon on those issues in General Assembly resolution 44/228. The **Ministers** agreed to convene a preparatory ministerial **meeting of the Group of 77** prior to the United Nations Conference on **Environment and Development** in 1992, as **recommended by** the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-aligned countries held **from 4-7 September** 1989.

23. The **Ministers** reaffirmed the principles of **universality, multilateralism, voluntary/grant nature, neutrality, nonconditionality and flexibility** in meeting **the technical** cooperation requirements of developing countries. The Ministers pointed to the importance of meeting increasing resource needs of developing countries in regard to the operational activities for development. The Ministers **stressed** that the way to **achieve this** objective is through substantial and urgent **increase** in real terms of the overall level of resources **for operational** activities for development of the United Nations system on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, bearing in mind **the**

special need for providing **grant** resources to programmes and **projects in low-income countries, particularly** the **LDCs**. They emphasised that resources of United Nations system operational activities should be **utilized** for projects and programmes of developing countries only. They further **stressed** that the developing countries should assume full responsibility for the execution of projects funded by the United Nations **system** in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process. In this connection, greater flexibility should be allowed the developing countries in their selection of executing entities. Moreover, **the Ministers emphasized that the** developing countries have the sole **responsibility for the programming of** operational activities in accordance with their national plans, **objectives** and strategies for development. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the need for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution **44/211**.

24. The Ministers noted that the **supply of energy** is vital to the acceleration of growth and development of the developing countries. In this connection, **the** international community should explore ways and means of **overcoming the adverse effects of** energy price fluctuations on developing countries. The **Ministers** also stressed the necessity of **developing and utilizing** new and renewable sources of energy to effectively address the **energy** problems of **all** the countries, **particularly those of** the developing countries, in accordance with the fundamental objective of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

25. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the secretariat and the Special Fund of the International **Decade** for Natural Disaster Reduction and called upon member States of the United Nations and member countries to **make** generous contributions to this Fund, to allow the secretariat to attain the objectives assigned to **the** Decade.

26. The **Ministers reaffirmed the special needs and vulnerabilities of** the **Least** Developed Countries and called for **continued** and specific attention of the international community, in particular with regard to commitments on OM, **debt** reduction and market **access**. The **Ministers** expressed their deep concern over the **unabated** development crisis in the **Least** Developed Countries. They noted that during the **decade** of 1980s the most formidable structural handicaps of **LDCs** combined with unfavourable external **constraints** to development continued to seriously **impede** their socio-economic development. In this context, the Ministers took note of the positive outcomes of the Second United Nations Conference on **Least** Developed Countries held in Paris from 3 to 14 **September** 1990 which adopted a new programme of action identifying the **areas** for national efforts and specific international **support** measures required to help the

LDCs. The Ministers expressed their firm conviction that the international community would continue to pay serious attention to the special needs of the Least Developed Countries fully implementing the commitment undertaken in the **new** programme of action with regard, among others, to **ODA, debt** reduction, market access and commodities.

27. The Ministers reiterated the need to address the specific problems **and** needs of land-locked developing countries, particularly with regard to reducing the costs of their access to **and** from the sea and world markets, improving the quality, efficiency and reliability of **transport** facilities, diversifying their economies and increasing financial resources and technical cooperation to promote the above-mentioned activities. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need **and** importance of co-operation between land-locked and transit developing countries.

28. The **Ministers** noted that the specific problems of island developing countries and the growing incidence of natural disasters retarded their growth and development and increased their susceptibility to economic impulses **from** the global economic environment. The need for the international community, particularly the donor countries and the United Nations system to address the specific problems of **the** island developing countries **was** therefore emphasized.

29. The Ministers stressed that despite **efforts** undertaken by developing countries to promote economic and technical co-operation among **themselves**, the objectives **set** forth by the Caracas Programme of Action on **ECDC** needed to be further pursued and accomplished. In this **context**, they called upon the donor **countries** as well as United Nations **organizations** in all their programmes to extend their support to these efforts to strengthen the collective sufficiency of the developing countries.

30. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the South Commission on the conclusion of its work. The **Ministers** took note of the **report** entitled "Challenge to the **South**" of the South Commission and agreed to bring the report to the attention of the **forty-fifth session** of the General Assembly.

31. The **Ministers** noted with **grave** concern that the Arab territories in Palestine, Syrian Golan and parts of southern Lebanon **are** still under Israeli occupation which deprives their people of their land and the sovereignty **over** their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development. In this context, the **Ministers** affirmed the urgent need to see the termination of this occupation.

32. The **Ministers** called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures in order to eliminate the use of coercive measures, which have been on the rise and have

taken new forms, including blockades, embargoes, and the freezing of **assets of developing** countries which have not been authorized by the competent organs of the United Nations.

33. The Ministers viewed **UNCTAD VIII**, to be held in Latin America in 1991, as an important opportunity **to** agree on policies and measures in the foregoing **areas**, with the objective of accelerating the growth and development **of** developing countries and thus contributing to **a** healthy, secure and equitable world economy. They **expressed** the hope that **UNCTAD VIII** would advance understanding, action and co-operation in those **areas and also** result in **a** strengthened role **for UNCTAD**. They looked forward to concerting their efforts towards these ends at their regular ministerial meeting in preparation **for the Conference**.
