



Remarks

by

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**Chef de Cabinet of the 68th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

on behalf of

**the President of the 68th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

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**Ceremonial meeting for the election of the Chair country of the
Group of 77 for the year 2014**

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Chairman Thomson,
Excellencies,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A pleasant good morning to you all.

I am indeed pleased to be part of this special occasion to elect the Plurinational State of Bolivia as the Chairman of the Group of 77 for 2014. I extend my sincere congratulations to President Evo Morales Ayma, as well as to his Foreign Minister, the Permanent Representative of the United Nations and his team at the Mission.

Assuming the role of Chairman of the Group of 77 is indeed a very important responsibility and I am confident that the experience, diplomatic skills and leadership of the Bolivian delegation will help to consolidate the Group's achievements and advance its agenda. I am particularly pleased that Bolivia, a country whose contribution to the efforts of the Group over the years has been significant and praiseworthy, should lead the Group during the year of its fiftieth anniversary in existence.

Distinguished Delegates,

The beginning of the 21st Century has seen an historic shift with developing countries driving global economic growth. Their share in world merchandise trade has nearly doubled in the last three decades, increasing from 25% to 47%. Trade among developing countries now represents more than a quarter of all global trade. This new dynamism of the South has allowed hundreds of millions of people to escape poverty and to dramatically improve their living conditions. In recent years, the economic slowdown in the North has incited developing countries to turn to their domestic markets. These trends are expected to continue and it is estimated that by 2030,

80% of the world's middle class will live in the South. The traditional power structures and dynamics of our world are dramatically changing, and will only continue to do so.

This past week, I attended the South-South Development Expo in Nairobi, where the growing influence of developing countries was once again on display. The Expo showcased a number of new and innovative best practices and ideas, including in renewable energy, energy efficiency, ways and means to limit pollution and emissions, sustainable farming and forestry and water conservation, among others. The Expo demonstrated the power and potential of increased cooperation among developing countries, which is really at the heart of what the Group of 77 is about and seeks to achieve.

What I said there, I shall repeat here: you are your own best allies on the path to sustainable development and poverty eradication. You often share the same challenges and seek to realize the same goals. As countries of the South continue to grow in influence and economic prowess, as you further deepen your economic and diplomatic ties, you will make even greater progress in creating hopeful lives and sustainable homes for your people.

The challenges before you are significant and evolving, the changes needed stretch beyond the confines of your Group, but together you are changing the global landscapes in development, economics, trade and geopolitics. With the post 2015 development agenda, we seek one shared, universal agenda that applies to all countries. The scope of this sweeping endeavor means that support from your allies in the North, including in the form of traditional partnerships and the fulfillment of commitments and pledges already made, will be critical; however, the international community also needs to redress longstanding imbalances, such as those in the current global financial and economic governance architecture.

Excellencies,

As you know South-South Cooperation is one of the top priorities of the General Assembly. During my presidency, I will work very closely with the G77 as well as other member States and the Secretary-General to adopt concrete measures to further strengthen and institutionalize the

UN's system support to this cooperation. I also expect the event I will convene next year - Contributions of South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the post-2015 Development Agenda - will make meaningful contributions to how new forms of cooperation can help us achieve our development goals. I look forward to the insights and ideas this Group brings to those discussions.

I once again extend my warm congratulations to the delegation of Bolivia. I look forward to working with you, as Chair, and with the entire Group of 77 throughout the rest of the 68th session of the General Assembly. And I look forward to seeing how the growing collaboration among countries of the South reshapes and influences our world for the good of all people.

Thank you.