

22 January 2010

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki,
President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group the 77
and China**

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
H.E. Ambassador Abdelmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to deliver this message on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency, Dr. Ali Treki.

Let me congratulate the Republic of Yemen on its assumption of the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Republic of Sudan for their excellent stewardship of the Group last year, in what was a highly challenging time especially for the developing countries.

In the current international political and economic environment, marked by multiple challenges and crises, we are unfortunately falling behind in one of the primary objectives - the attainment of the development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. A reinvigorated, collective and sustained effort is required to reverse the setbacks and to put ourselves on the right course that leads to greater well-being, development and prosperity for the developing world, from Asia to Africa to Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this regard, the Group of 77 and China is a key instrument in your hands. In the multilateral sphere, the powerful role played by the Group in defending and promoting the collective interests of the developing countries, is indeed heartening. Representing the largest grouping of Member States, it is a strong voice, which must be heard and taken into account, if we are to effectively handle the various challenges confronting us.

The South has achieved progress and prominence over the years. We must do more to have this progress more evenly reflected among the developing countries. Solidarity is our strength. One of the best ways of operationalizing this solidarity into concrete action is to expand and diversify the South-South cooperation, whose full potential must now be utilized to pursue the collective strategy of the Group in support of the economic, social and cultural development of all its Member States. The outcome of the United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi

last December, was an important achievement in this regard, and a recognition of the increasing significance of South-South cooperation in the last decades. We must carry the mission forward.

I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation and for your active participation in the work of the General Assembly during the sixty-fourth session. The United Nations is an ideal forum to promote global and multilateral solutions to the global issues and challenges. Its role is vital and invaluable for the developing countries in particular. It is in our collective interest to have a strengthened and more effective United Nations to promote peace, development and human rights for all.

In the coming months, we will have ample opportunities to work together for a strengthened global partnership for development, with a central role for the United Nations, in order to address the needs and priorities of the developing countries.

I look forward to working closely with the Group of 77 and China in important areas, particularly to ensure the success of the September 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting, the High Level Meeting on Financing for Development, as well as the high level meetings on the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and on the International Year of Biodiversity. I hope you would also bring your important contributions to the various thematic debates that will be held during this session, including the high level interactive dialogue on "Water for Life", disarmament, peacekeeping, dialogue among civilization and the Middle East peace process, which will offer Member States a new and revitalized space to debate on important matters. I would also count on your support to advance the various processes on United Nations reform, particularly our efforts to strengthen and revitalize the role of

the General Assembly.

I wish you all the success in your work.

Thank you.