

28 September 2012

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić,
President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 / China**

Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to address the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China. I thank my close friends from Algeria for bringing us together on this occasion.

The Group of 77 and China represents the interests, ambitions and hopes of around 60 per cent of the world's population. As such, it is a critical interlocutor for the General Assembly.

I firmly believe that international stability and prosperity cannot be consolidated without taking into account the views of the majority of the world's nations. Building a fairer global community is inextricably linked to the efforts of the G77 plus China to advance the quest for collective emancipation from existing economic inequalities.

I value the important contributions your Group makes to the General Assembly, and hope we can further strengthen our cooperation over the course of the 67th Session.

Excellencies,

The preamble of the United Nations Charter states that this organization should “employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples” and “unite our strength to maintain international peace and security”.

In this era of global transformation, security and development have become even more closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The high levels of geopolitical volatility and economic instability are likely to remain preponderant realities for quite some time.

It is against this background that I have proposed “bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means” as the overarching theme for our work over the next year.

I look forward to benefiting from your wide-ranging experience and knowledge, as we work together on creating a more equitable, secure and prosperous world.

Excellencies,

One of the most pressing challenges on our agenda is sustainable development. This Group's broad membership gives it a unique perspective, and I believe your active engagement is critical to ensuring legitimacy for the follow-up process to the Rio+20 Conference.

The General Assembly has been mandated to implement what was agreed by world leaders in June. As President, I will push forward preparations for a High-Level Forum to be convened at beginning of the next year's session. I will also engage with Member States on the establishment of a Working Group to define a list of Sustainable Development Goals for consideration and adoption by the plenary.

To become truly effective, the Rio+20 agenda will no doubt need additional resources. I will prioritize the establishment of an intergovernmental process, under the framework of the General Assembly and in line with the mandate this body was given in Rio, to recommend options for an effective financing strategy.

As President, I will work closely with this Group on enhancing the General Assembly's capacity to transform these commitments into actions.

Excellencies,

The state of the global economy is creating serious challenges for the entire world, including the members of this Group. Many developing countries are suffering from the effects of what has been called the Great Recession, although its seeds germinated elsewhere. In the face of this hardship, a hand of solidarity should be extended further.

I believe that enhancing South-South cooperation is an important aspect of the response to the global economic crisis. I am deeply committed to the full implementation of Resolution 64/222, which aims to expand and strengthen the institutional mechanisms of this cooperation.

I believe we need to focus more on looking at ways of improving various aspects of global economic governance so they become more inclusive, accountable, and transparent.

In both my addresses to the plenary at the start of the 67th Session, I emphasized the importance of the economic dimension of sovereign equality: no nation can lift itself out of poverty if it has no right to have its voice heard.

In my view, the General Assembly needs to be more closely involved in the ongoing discourse on the world's economy. Global standard-setting is best undertaken in organizations with universal reach.

There should be more direct engagement with IFIs such as the World Bank and the IMF, for they play important roles. I believe that the General Assembly should also increase its interaction with the G-20.

I will continue the tradition established by my predecessors, and convene informal meetings of the General Assembly before and after G-20 preparatory meetings, as well as the annual Heads of State or Government Summit.

I would also like to work with you on ways to regularize its interactions with the General Assembly. That is why I have proposed to launch a process leading to the establishment of an effective consultative framework between the General Assembly and international financial and trade institutions, as well as groupings such as the G-20.

Excellencies,

Your support for this initiative is very important. I believe strengthening multilateral cooperation especially in areas related to economic governance will help further promote the role the United Nations can play in setting the world on a more equitable development path.

Thank you for your attention.