



STATEMENT BY

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

AT THE

**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
COMMITTEE
ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND COOPERATION**

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**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Ambassador Al-Nasser for inviting me to speak at the Fifteenth Session of the High-level Committee.

Excellencies,

In this era of globalization the importance of greater cooperation between the countries of the developing world cannot be underestimated.

Harnessing the full potential of South-South cooperation is vital to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The current global economic outlook is being driven by buoyant growth in emerging market economies. This is changing the economic balance of power and creating new opportunities for the South.

To be full appreciated these trends should be understood from a long term perspective.

In the sixteenth century, China and India were the world's largest economies. By 1820 this had firmly shifted to Western Europe and North America. By the end of the Second World War this shift had become much more pronounced.

In the last two decades, the integration of China and India, and the tiger economies of East Asia into the global economy has had a major impact on global growth, trade and production.

By 2017, China and India will have nearly doubled their share of world income.

Globally developing countries now account for over 40 per cent of GDP – on a purchasing power parity basis; over 30 per cent of manufacturing exports; and, over one third of Foreign Direct Investment.

Long-term world GDP growth is rising annually by around 4 per cent, but most rapidly in developing countries. Global trade has grown even more rapidly at around 7 per cent annually.

Globalization brings opportunities, and has also brought challenges.

Excellencies,

support the agenda and priorities for South-South development cooperation.

The United Nation's thematic support for South-South cooperation is dispersed among various organizations and specialized agencies. Drawing more effectively on the Resident Coordinator system is one way to facilitate greater support between developing countries.

In addition, at the 2005 Doha South Summit, Heads of State and Government asked the Secretary-General to take urgent action to strengthen the Special Unit as the focal point for South-South Cooperation within the UN system.

Excellencies,

Achieving the Millennium development Goals and wider development objectives, dealing with the sharp social and economic inequalities that persist, is central to our collective global economic stability and prosperity.

The High-Level Committee on South-South cooperation can make a vital contribution to this objective.

The first UN Conference on South-South cooperation was some 29 years ago in Argentina. It is clear the world has since undergone dramatic changes. Next year, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Given the changes in the pattern of global development maybe now is an opportune time to seriously consider holding another United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Thank you very much.