

Proposing Islamic Republic of Iran as the next Chairman of the Group of 77

Statement by Mr. S.T. Devare, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs

on September 15, 2000

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of my Minister, may I record the sincere appreciation of India for the leadership that has been provided by Nigeria and by Your Excellency personally to the Group of 77 over the last eight months, and to express our confidence in your abilities to lead the Group through difficult negotiations that lie ahead in the current session of the General Assembly. Your leadership was also a critical factor in the success of the Havana South Summit, whose decisions, for our common benefit, we hope, would be soon and fully implemented.

It is now my great honour and privilege to propose the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Chairman of the Group of 77 for the first year of the third millennium. It is indeed befitting that the Group be led by Iran in 2001. Their past Chairmanship of our Group in 1973-1974 had been crowned with success, most importantly for the decision to convene the First World Food Conference. Also, coming soon after the establishment of UNEP in 1972, the Chairmanship of Iran led to the consolidation of UN's role in the area of environment to the benefit of developing countries.

I have been also informed that the Asian Regional Group at the United Nations has already endorsed the candidacy of Iran to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77. I hope that this proposal would be acceptable and wish the Islamic Republic of Iran all success in their leadership of our Group next year. India would fully and whole-heartedly cooperate with them, as indeed, it has done with all previous Chairmen, in their endeavours for achieving our shared and common goals.