

STATEMENT BY MR. MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77 ON  
JANUARY 26, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Before I begin on the formal part of our presence here, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to Haiti, and to all other countries whose nationals that have suffered the devastating calamity in Haiti.

Let me underscore that India stands with the people of Haiti in its time of need. We have no doubt that Haiti, with the support of the international community, will be successful in its courageous efforts to rebuild itself.

Mr. Chairman

Permit me to felicitate Your Excellency on Yemen's election as Chairman of the Group of 77. My delegation wishes you all success in your important efforts during this year. You can count on our continued support in your endeavours.

I would also like to thank Sudan for its leadership of the Group during 2009, a year that presented enormous challenges to the collective interests of developing countries.

Be it the financial and economic crisis, climate change, South-South cooperation or budgetary issues here at the United Nations, 2009 was indeed a year in which the solidarity and unity of the G-77 was tested.

We should take particular satisfaction that despite these challenges, the G-77 remained united and emerged stronger.

This is not to gloss over the undeniable divergence of interests in such a diverse Group as this. However, the success of this group has been, and will continue to be, in

its ability to forge common positions based on shared interests, solidarity and a sense of common destiny.

It is important that this spirit of unity and solidarity among developing countries be maintained and strengthened. This is key to ensure the continued success of this Group.

However, we must be cautious against complacency. Despite signs of recovery in some of our economies, the impact of the crisis continues to be with us, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable amongst us. We need to continue to focus on the needs and concerns of such countries, including the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island Developing States, the African countries, among others. In this context, the G-77 must continue to be active the work of the ad-hoc working group on the financial and economic crisis.

In the area of climate change, as we move towards Mexico, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as well as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol must continue to guide our work. In this context, it is essential that the two-track approach towards the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA processes lead to an ambitious and equitable outcome. We also need to ensure that the needs for financial and technological transfer are met and the specific needs of SIDS, LDCs and the African continent are addressed. As a group, the G-77 must work diligently to protect its interests with a sense of purpose and remain together. Though the road ahead will be difficult, the unity and solidarity of the group is critical. We have no doubt, that you will well steer this process. Let me also assure you of our full support and whatever we can do to assist you in your endeavours on this important issue.

We also have the high-level meeting in September on the MDGs. This meeting, and its outcome document, will be important in charting the course ahead till 2015. It is imperative that developing country concerns are articulated in a coherent and forceful manner in this process.

We also look forward to the important meeting review to review the Mauritius Strategy for sustainable development of SIDS.

Overall, it is quite clear that 2010 will also be a very challenging year for our Group and we need to continue to work together. Let me, therefore, wish Yemen the very best, and reiterate our continued support to the G-77.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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