

Second South Summit

Doha, Qatar June 12-16, 2005

Statement by H. E. Mr. Clement Rohee
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Republic of Guyana

June 16, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to express my delegation's pleasure at seeing you, a most distinguished son of the Caribbean and the world, preside over this second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China. We also congratulate you and your entire delegation for the visionary leadership that you are providing to our Group at this most critical juncture. My delegation stands ready to lend its support and cooperation as you continue to lead us forward.

We also pay special tribute to the Government and people of our host country, the State of Qatar, who, under the leadership of His Royal Highness the Emir, steered our Group with patient resolve through the challenges of 2004. Indeed, no effort has been spared to ensure that our stay in Doha is both pleasant and memorable. We are deeply touched by the generous hospitality that has been extended to us.

Mr. Chairman,

Our deliberations so far attest to the growing importance of South-South Cooperation and the increasing spheres of action wherein such cooperation finds expression. These include economic affairs, political governance and social policy. The growth of intra-south trade, the increasing share of South-South trade in global trade, cooperation in information and communications technology,

agriculture, health, education to name but a few areas, evidence a renewed dynamism of cooperation among developing countries.

Indeed, South-South cooperation has quietly moved beyond the realm of rhetoric to become a growing reality in global discourse. At the same time, we have to acknowledge that in the five years since the Havana Declaration and Programme of Action were adopted, our progress in implementation has been limited. We can and must do more to optimise the results of gatherings such as these.

My Government continues to accord high importance to South-South cooperation, with a specific department of Government serving as the national focal point for its promotion. Guyana has been a committed partner in several regional integration and cooperation arrangements. Foremost among these is our participation in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which is the centre of numerous cooperation programmes within a framework of growing integration for the member countries of the Community. Among the areas of focus are those relating to health, including HIV/AIDS, education, tourism development, environment and disaster preparedness. Substantial progress has been made towards the creation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the consequent enlargement of the economic space for the citizens of the Caribbean Community. Already measures have been instituted to facilitate the free movement of skills and capital throughout the Region.

Another important arena of action from Guyana's perspective is the launching of the South American Community of Nations, which envisages stronger links among the countries of the continent through improved trade and exchange, enhanced communications and physical integration in order to optimise the vast potential of a region of more than 360 million people with a GDP of more than one trillion.

At the bilateral level, Guyana has in place a number of cooperation frameworks, including joint commissions with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. We remain committed to strengthening cooperation and solidarity with partners across the developing world. In this endeavour, my Government looks forward to forging new links with countries in the Arab world.

More globally, my delegation is encouraged by the progress made in other regions. The emergence of NEPAD in Africa and the ongoing evolution in arrangements such as ASEAN and SAARC, in addition to developments in Latin America and the Caribbean, promise new vistas, not only for South-South cooperation, but also for South-North relations. Special mention must also be made of the increasing links across regions and continents, exemplified by the recently held Asian-African Summit and the South American-Arab Countries Summit, both of which adopted important outcomes envisaging strengthened cooperation among the countries concerned and at the interregional level.

As we expand the networks of cooperation and exchange within the South, it is increasingly important that we engage all relevant actors, including those of the private sector and non-Governmental Organisations in order to take fullest advantage of the capacities that lie within our countries and peoples. The strengthening of institutions at the national level as well as of global instruments and institutions such as the South Centre and our own G77 machinery must also form part of our response.

Equally important is the need to envision and implement a constructive engagement with our partners in the developed world, based on mutual respect and genuine partnership, to ensure the best conditions for human progress in this era of globalisation and interdependence. In this spirit, we welcome the recent commitment of G8 countries to cancel the multilateral debt of a number of HIPC countries, including Guyana, and look forward to its full and early implementation. We look also for an outcome of the Doha round of WTO trade

negotiations that takes fully into account the concerns and interests of developing countries, including small, vulnerable and commodity-dependent economies. Further, we eagerly anticipate the actualisation of time bound commitments to reach the 0.7 % GNP target with respect to ODA.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we hope that the forthcoming September Millennium review summit will establish the centrality of development in the future architecture of the United Nations and will engage specific undertakings as regards the actions, measures and mechanisms required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Unlike the case of the Millennium Declaration where the role of South-South cooperation is conspicuously absent, we must ensure that the outcome of the high-level meeting in September reflects South-South cooperation as an integral part of the response to the global challenges that face us in the pursuit of peace and development. The countries of the South, acting together, can be a formidable force for positive change. We must use our combined strength to help construct a global environment that is conducive to the fulfilment of the aspirations of our peoples for peace, prosperity and progress.

Mr. Chairman,

In adopting the Doha Declaration and Plan of Action, therefore, we must undertake to deploy the strategies, actions and resources that will give fullest political and practical effect to the agreements and undertakings reflected therein. In this regard, we warmly welcome the initiative by the Emir of Qatar of a fund to promote South-South cooperation and the generous commitment of 20 million dollars.

Guyana pledges to remain a committed partner in this noble and necessary endeavour.

I thank you.