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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

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INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CEREMONY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION
ADOPTED BY WORLD LEADERS AT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Letter dated 4 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 3 October 1990 on the occasion of their fourteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 23, 35, 40, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 86, 90, 108, 148 and 151.

(Signed) Ambassador Hugo NAVAJAS-MOGRO
Permanent Representative of Bolivia
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
New York

**DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE GROUP OF 77**

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held their fourteenth annual meeting on 3 October 1990 in New York.
2. The Ministers were pleased to welcome the unity of both parts of Yemen and wished them success in their new statehood. They also requested the international community to assist the newly united country in the promotion of its socio-economic structures for the prosperity of its people.
3. The Ministers welcomed the independence of Namibia and noted that this would contribute to the emergence of a better climate for peace and security in Southern Africa. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the admission of Namibia as the 128th member of the Group of 77.
4. The Ministers reiterated the principles and objectives set forth in the Caracas Declaration adopted in 1989, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Group, including the pending recommendations regarding its organizational effectiveness. These principles and objectives remain valid and should be assiduously pursued and implemented.
5. The Ministers emphasized the importance of carrying forward the consensus embodied in the Declaration on international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries, adopted by the Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly on 1 May 1990. This agreement constitutes a step toward a renewed North-South dialogue on key areas of international co-operation for development. While recognizing the paramount importance of the political will and commitment of all countries to guarantee the implementation of the Declaration, they stressed that this will require full and effective use of the United Nations system. To this effect, broad-ranging measures, including effective review mechanisms, should be considered at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in its consideration of an item entitled "Implementation of the commitments and policies of international development co-operation agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries", in accordance with resolution 1990/54 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session. The Ministers likewise emphasized that all countries should implement the Declaration through national policies and enhanced international cooperation aimed at the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries.

6. The Ministers expressed their strong hope that the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the Heads of State or Government at the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990 would be urgently and fully implemented.

7. The Ministers noted that after seven years of sustained growth in the developed countries and major adjustment efforts in many developing countries, the stagnation and decline in much of the developing world continued in 1989 and the first part of 1990. In this connection, the Ministers underlined the importance of adopting and implementing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade as a primary instrument to overcome the stalemate of the 1980s.

8. The Ministers highlighted the importance of solving social problems in developing countries as a necessary condition for the revitalization of economic growth and development of those countries. They noted that the ultimate goal of economic development is the elimination of all factors which prevent social and economic advancement of all human beings. Therefore, steps should be taken to improve the human condition and to maximize the full potential of all members of the society, including women and youth, in those countries through the implementation of domestic/national and international policies directed towards the eradication of poverty and hunger, improvement in the quality of human resources by promoting education and training, increased employment opportunities and higher labor productivity in both rural and urban areas, higher levels of nutrition and improved health, housing, as well as other social services. The Ministers particularly stressed that measures should be taken to counteract the negative effects of the economic conditions which prevailed during the past decade which had made inevitable in many cases the enforcement of structural adjustment programmes which particularly affected the vulnerable groups of people.

9. The Ministers reiterated the view that although development is primarily a responsibility of the developing countries themselves, in an increasingly interdependent world, it also depends on a favorable international economic environment. They noted that interdependence affects countries differently, that is, in accordance with their capacity and relative impact on the world economy and that it can either reinforce the economic policies for development of the developing countries or counter them and cause their failure. This poses new risks and challenges to new development strategies for developing countries and makes a strong case for international co-operation for development. They further stressed the need for strengthening multilateral macroeconomic surveillance aimed at the correction of major economic and financial imbalances within the world economy. In addition, they emphasized that the increasing

internationalization of the world economy required an equitable and effective mechanism of multilateral macroeconomic policy coordination which should allow for greater participation of developing countries and take into account their needs and concerns.

10. The Ministers took note of the profound economic and political changes taking place in the Eastern European countries and expressed their hope that the dynamic integration of those countries into the world economy will lead to more commercial opportunities and investment flows to developing countries. They emphasized that the new developments in East-West relations should be closely monitored to guard against further marginalization of the developing countries, particularly in trade and transfer of technology or the danger of reduced availability of resources for the development of the developing countries and the erosion of the benefit for debt relief recently secured by some of them. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the decision taken by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the initiative of the Group of 77 to convene a Special Ministerial Meeting of the Council in 1991 devoted to "the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the world economy, in particular on economic growth and development of developing countries" to be held in Geneva on 4-5 July 1991. They noted that this event, the first of its kind, deserves careful preparation by the Group of 77 and therefore called upon the developing country members of the Council as well as observers to be represented at this meeting at the ministerial level, to ensure the presentation of the views of the developing countries at the highest level.

11. The Ministers stressed that the Uruguay Round provides a unique opportunity to promote a truly open, credible, dynamic and durable multilateral trading system. Reiterating the need for a successful and balanced outcome of the Round which should promote in particular the developmental aspirations of developing countries, they emphasized that this opportunity must be seized by the international community in order to generate a new consensus, within the United Nations system, on all aspects of international economic co-operation in the field of trade and development. This consensus should promote both benefits for all its Member States and opportunities for a meaningful participation of developing countries in the international economy. Furthermore, they noted that the prevalent movement towards integration of new economic blocs in Europe and elsewhere should be directed towards greater openness of the world markets and should redound to the benefit of all countries. They further stressed that this process should not, in any way, add to the tendency towards unilateralism, bilateralism and other forms of protectionism and discrimination, which already seriously restrict access of exports from developing countries to the

markets of developed countries, impeding the revitalization of their economic growth and development.

12. The Ministers emphasized that the external indebtedness of developing countries remains a major hindrance to economic growth and development. They further stressed that in order to achieve a broad and durable solution to the debt problem, prompt, innovative and ample measures should be taken to significantly reduce the stock and service of all types of debt of all categories of debtor developing countries and to prevent the proliferation of the problem of indebtedness. Otherwise, the great efforts made so far by the governments of these countries to resume vigorous economic growth and sustained development, and to avoid political instability and social turmoil will prove unfruitful. In this connection, the Ministers reiterated the need for considering the establishment of an advisory committee on debt and development, as well as a possibility of establishing an international debt facility within the multilateral financial institutions.

13. The Ministers emphasized the critical role of concessional external resources for the development of the developing countries. They called upon the developed countries to redouble their efforts to implement their undertakings to attain the agreed international target of devoting 0.7% of gross national product to official development assistance. They also urged the developed countries to enhance the quantity and quality of their aid.

14. The Ministers noted that, in the last decade, the sharp decline in the flow of resources to developing countries, their severe external indebtedness, deterioration in their terms of trade, depressed international commodity prices, and continued protectionism and other trade measures taken by the developed countries, both individually and collectively, have resulted in a substantial net transfer of resources from developing countries. They further noted that this transfer is rapidly increasing and has become the main obstacle to resumed economic growth and development as well as to political stability of developing countries. They stressed that urgent and immediate measures are required to halt and reverse this phenomenon.

15. The Ministers urged developed countries to take concrete actions aimed at improving the access to their markets for items of export interest to developing countries. The Ministers stressed that the trade policy reforms being undertaken by developing countries would be frustrated unless the developed countries took positive structural adjustment measures providing larger export possibilities to developing countries.

16. The Ministers noted the persisting commodity problems caused by the continued deterioration in the terms of trade which had

resulted in further reduction in export earnings of developing countries, and in Africa in particular. The efforts of these countries to diversify the commodity sector need to be supported.

17. The Ministers emphasized the importance of achieving adequate levels of industrialization in developing countries as one of the main ways to assure the reactivation of their economic growth and development. The Ministers also pointed out the necessity of properly assisting the different stages of industrialization in all developing regions, mainly through the strengthening of industrial infra-structures, the modernization of production capabilities, and the improvement of training techniques. At the same time, in selecting patterns of industrialization, the developing countries should take into account the possibilities of generating employment, human resource development and the ability to incorporate new and emerging technologies. In this connection, the Ministers urged that developed countries, as well as international organizations, should support the efforts made by developing countries to improve their levels of industrialization by providing sufficient financial resources, and opening the domestic markets of developed countries to manufactured exports coming from developing countries.

18. The Ministers stressed that the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology are crucial for the economic growth and development of those countries. Effective modalities for unimpeded access to and transfer of technology, particularly on concessional and preferential terms, to developing countries must be set up. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation schemes, including joint programmes of research and development, should be strengthened or initiated. The intellectual property rights system should not be used to create further constraints on access to technology and transfer of technology to developing countries. Therefore, any new regime of intellectual property rights should take into account the developmental concerns of developing countries and their increased need to have an unimpeded access to foreign technologies. The Ministers expressed their strong concern over multilateral and unilateral measures adopted by the developed countries that hinder the free flow of technology to the developing countries. Such measures reinforce the restricted access to technology, in particular of the new and emerging ones, and contribute to deepening the gap between industrialized and developing nations. They are contrary to the principles of free trade and inconsistent with the purpose of promoting development in the developing countries and making the world economy more efficient and more competitive.

19. The Ministers reaffirmed their conviction that there is, at present, more than ever before, a pressing need for a global framework of rules and principles aimed at promoting the access

to, diffusion, and transfer of technology at fair and equitable terms and conditions, both at the intergovernmental and inter-enterprise levels. Therefore, the Ministers reiterated their willingness to resume negotiations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology and were of the view that the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology should be reconvened as early as possible.

20. The Ministers reiterated the special importance of food and agriculture in the development of the developing countries. They further noted that food and agricultural production in developing countries should expand to create a basis for more rapid industrialization and diversification of their economic structures, to redress growing imbalances in world production and enable them to become more self-reliant in the production of their basic foodstuffs. The Ministers also stressed that in order to achieve that goal, the main exporting developed countries shall avoid adverse effects on the economies of the developing countries while formulating and implementing their domestic agricultural policies and reverse the disquieting rise in protectionism, including export subsidies, taking into account the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing countries, considering their food security objectives and the need to avoid potentially adverse effects on their countries, specially the net food importing ones.

21. The Ministers stressed that the continued expansion of illicit production, consumption and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances requires the adoption of urgent measures by the international community. Those measures should include drastic reduction and eventual elimination of demand in the main consumer centers accompanied by crop substitution programmes and measures to strengthen international co-operation to facilitate trade flows and creation of expanded opportunities for trade, investment, in order to provide access to international markets for crop substitution products and other goods produced by countries affected by illicit production and processing of narcotic drugs and for further strengthening their international capacity to produce exportable goods. They further stressed that the financial and banking systems should be prevented from money laundering activities of capital flows stemming from illicit traffic in drugs, and effective action must be taken to impede the diversion of raw materials and other specific chemicals to the illegal manufacture of narcotic drugs. They also called for the international community to take into account the problems of transit countries and of those engaged in illicit production. In this regard, the Ministers endorsed the Political Declaration and called for the full implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply,

demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

22. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening of international co-operation for the protection and enhancement of the environment. Accordingly, the development dimension in its relation to environment should be of high priority. Therefore, a supportive international economic environment for the developing countries is essential. Moreover, development requires co-ordinated efforts in the North and South, in accordance with the capabilities of each country, with a view to promoting better standards of living which are not harmful to the environment. The Ministers noted that, since the main cause of the deterioration of the environment is the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption of developed countries, they have the main responsibility to combat world pollution; therefore, those countries should increase their endeavors in order to help developing countries in their efforts to deal with their own environmental problems, many of which originate from and have strong links to poverty. The Ministers re-emphasized the importance of international co-operation to provide the developing countries with new and additional financial resources, as well as ensured access to, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and non-commercial terms without imposing any forms of conditionality. In this context, they stressed that negotiations on any convention, umbrella agreement or instrument on environment should include these provisions from the outset. Under no circumstances, should environmental considerations be used to justify the imposition of any form of restrictions which adversely affect the developing countries. The Ministers stressed that the success of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will depend on the strict and full compliance by the developed countries with the commitments agreed upon on these issues in General Assembly resolution 44/228. The Ministers agreed to convene a preparatory ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, as recommended by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries held from 4-7 September 1989.

23. The Ministers reaffirmed the principles of universality, multilateralism, voluntary/grant nature, neutrality, nonconditionality and flexibility in meeting the technical cooperation requirements of developing countries. The Ministers pointed to the importance of meeting increasing resource needs of developing countries in regard to the operational activities for development. The Ministers stressed that the way to achieve this objective is through substantial and urgent increase in real terms of the overall level of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, bearing in mind the

special need for providing grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the LDCs. They emphasized that resources of United Nations system operational activities should be utilized for projects and programmes of developing countries only. They further stressed that the developing countries should assume full responsibility for the execution of projects funded by the United Nations system in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process. In this connection, greater flexibility should be allowed the developing countries in their selection of executing entities. Moreover, the Ministers emphasized that the developing countries have the sole responsibility for the programming of operational activities in accordance with their national plans, objectives and strategies for development. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the need for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211.

24. The Ministers noted that the supply of energy is vital to the acceleration of growth and development of the developing countries. In this connection, the international community should explore ways and means of overcoming the adverse effects of energy price fluctuations on developing countries. The Ministers also stressed the necessity of developing and utilizing new and renewable sources of energy to effectively address the energy problems of all the countries, particularly those of the developing countries, in accordance with the fundamental objective of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

25. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the secretariat and the Special Fund of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and called upon member States of the United Nations and member countries to make generous contributions to this Fund, to allow the secretariat to attain the objectives assigned to the Decade.

26. The Ministers reaffirmed the special needs and vulnerabilities of the Least Developed Countries and called for continued and specific attention of the international community, in particular with regard to commitments on ODA, debt reduction and market access. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the unabated development crisis in the Least Developed Countries. They noted that during the decade of 1980s the most formidable structural handicaps of LDCs combined with unfavourable external constraints to development continued to seriously impede their socio-economic development. In this context, the Ministers took note of the positive outcomes of the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990 which adopted a new programme of action identifying the areas for national efforts and specific international support measures required to help the

LDCs. The Ministers expressed their firm conviction that the international community would continue to pay serious attention to the special needs of the Least Developed Countries fully implementing the commitment undertaken in the new programme of action with regard, among others, to ODA, debt reduction, market access and commodities.

27. The Ministers reiterated the need to address the specific problems and needs of land-locked developing countries, particularly with regard to reducing the costs of their access to and from the sea and world markets, improving the quality, efficiency and reliability of transport facilities, diversifying their economies and increasing financial resources and technical cooperation to promote the above-mentioned activities. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need and importance of co-operation between land-locked and transit developing countries.

28. The Ministers noted that the specific problems of island developing countries and the growing incidence of natural disasters retarded their growth and development and increased their susceptibility to economic impulses from the global economic environment. The need for the international community, particularly the donor countries and the United Nations system to address the specific problems of the island developing countries was therefore emphasized.

29. The Ministers stressed that despite efforts undertaken by developing countries to promote economic and technical co-operation among themselves, the objectives set forth by the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC needed to be further pursued and accomplished. In this context, they called upon the donor countries as well as United Nations organizations in all their programmes to extend their support to these efforts to strengthen the collective sufficiency of the developing countries.

30. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the South Commission on the conclusion of its work. The Ministers took note of the report entitled "Challenge to the South" of the South Commission and agreed to bring the report to the attention of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

31. The Ministers noted with grave concern that the Arab territories in Palestine, Syrian Golan and parts of southern Lebanon are still under Israeli occupation which deprives their people of their land and the sovereignty over their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development. In this context, the Ministers affirmed the urgent need to see the termination of this occupation.

32. The Ministers called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures in order to eliminate the use of coercive measures, which have been on the rise and have

taken new forms, including blockades, embargoes, and the freezing of assets of developing countries which have not been authorized by the competent organs of the United Nations.

33. The Ministers viewed UNCTAD VIII, to be held in Latin America in 1991, as an important opportunity to agree on policies and measures in the foregoing areas, with the objective of accelerating the growth and development of developing countries and thus contributing to a healthy, secure and equitable world economy. They expressed the hope that UNCTAD VIII would advance understanding, action and co-operation in those areas and also result in a strengthened role for UNCTAD. They looked forward to concerting their efforts towards these ends at their regular ministerial meeting in preparation for the Conference.
