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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 7 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of  
Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the Group of 77, an aide-mémoire entitled "Convening of a special session of the General Assembly on the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries" (see annex).

I would highly appreciate, on behalf of the Group of 77, 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 and 82.

(Signed) Ahmed GHEZAL  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Tunisia to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77  
New York

ANNEX

Aide-mémoire dated 7 October 1988 on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries

1. The recent improvement of the international political climate and the efforts of the United Nations and the Secretary-General have contributed to advancing the cause of peace throughout the world. These efforts in the political field should now be accompanied by corresponding action in the areas of development and international economic co-operation with the aim of reviving growth and economic and social development as an essential underpinning for durable peace and stability in the world. Uneven growth rates, increasing protectionism, low commodity prices, the debt crisis, the net transfer of resources from developing countries and the state of "adjustment fatigue" in those countries are some of the major interrelated problems that beset international economic relations and which require urgent attention at a high political level.
2. The postponement of internationally co-ordinated action would further increase the political and social costs incurred as a result of these problems. The impact of the developing countries' economic and financial predicament on a world economy characterized by growing interdependence fully justifies the intensification of international dialogue. The participation of marginalized regions of the globe into the world economy would benefit all countries by expanding the flow of resources and trade and raising growth rates both in developing and developed countries. Other important questions, such as sustained growth in developed countries, could also be addressed. A multilateral response is thus needed to meet the challenge of durable and sustained development. A comprehensive dialogue should be pursued in order to reach a broad understanding on a set of international policies and measures, ushering in a new era of widespread, equitable and balanced development of the world economy.
3. The United Nations is mandated by its Charter to foster concerted action for the attainment of the common goal of solving international economic problems. It is a unique forum for reaching agreement on action to redress the current imbalances.
4. The convening of the special session of the General Assembly, as proposed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twelfth annual meeting on 30 September 1988 to review the state of the world economy and to propose ways and means of reactivating the development of developing countries, would constitute an important and positive contribution towards an effective multilateral response to the urgent economic problems of the world.

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