



THE GROUP OF 77 & CHINA

ROME CHAPTER

Communiqué on the occasion of the Africa Day

On the occasion of the celebration of the *Africa Day*, on 25 May 2012, the G77 Chairmanship would like to take this opportunity to express its congratulations to G-77 Africa Members and to their respective Governments, for the 49th Anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), a historical event that took place in 1963.

The majority of independent African States founded the OAU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to promote unity and solidarity and act as a collective voice for the African continent; to coordinate and intensify cooperation; to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; and to eradicate all forms of colonialism. On 9 July 2002, the OAU was replaced by the Africa Union (AU), bringing together the continent of Africa to collectively address its challenges.

For this year's *Africa Day*, the African Union organized the Global African Diaspora Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme ***Towards the realization of a United and Integrated Africa and its Diaspora***, which consists of "people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union". In this regard, countries of South America, Latin America and the Caribbean, who have historically strived to fight against poverty, hunger, disease and social imbalances, -issues that largely affect African descendent communities-, participated in this Summit.

One of the main objectives of the Global African Diaspora Summit is to create realizable Programmes of Action, through sustainable dialogue and partnerships between the African continent and the African Diaspora; to promote South-South Cooperation for enhancing mutual development; and to strengthen Pan-African solidarity. Likewise, as recognized by the Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit, this collaboration should also be strengthened among governments and peoples of different regions of the World in which the Diaspora populations are located.

On this special occasion, the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, Rome Chapter, would like to share the commitment expressed by the Chairmanship of the African Union, during the World Summit of the African Diaspora: "*Africa and its Diaspora should unite so that our resources and unlimited capacity for development can bring prosperity to the continent, but also benefits the rest of the world. It's time to unite, now more than ever*".

The African Regional Group is one of the backbones of the G-77 & China, and indeed Africa is a column of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The *Africa Day* is an occasion for joy and reflection. Joy for the progress Africa has achieved, and reflection on the challenges that lie ahead. The Rome Chapter of the G-77 & China joins our African brothers and sisters in this celebration, which is also an appropriate occasion for looking forward to the unity of all humankind.

Gladys Urbaneja Durán

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to FAO
G-77 & China Chairperson
Rome Chapter