



**MESSAGE FROM H.E. AMBASSADOR MOURAD BENMEHIDI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GROUP OF 77**

We are celebrating 48 years since the Group of 77 was established on 15 June 1964. The Group has grown in numbers since then which represents an important source of its continued strength. The solidarity of the Group of 77 forged over the years in different forums within the UN system must emerge with even greater unity and consolidated strength in the service of the future activities of the Group.

The continued validity of the unity and solidarity on which the Group of 77 was founded 48 years ago has not been negated by the passage of time and the recognition of evolving diversity. Such South-South solidarity has been the result of the collective perception by the developing countries that their problems are shared and common and of the need for joint action in accordance with the principles and objectives of the U.N. Charter. The unity of the Group of 77 and its binding common perception is reinforced by the fact that almost all developing countries have over the past years seen their development processes disrupted by external economic factors in the face of the inequitable pattern of international economic relations.

Unity and solidarity for the development of the South are the greatest hallmarks and indeed the pillars of the Group of 77. Since its founding, the Group has not only played a significant role in development and international cooperation but also been a prime initiator of ideas, concepts and initiatives for their further advancement. The Group's main strengths have been its unity and cohesion, its vision of a fair and equitable world economic order, the commitment of its Member States to the betterment of the conditions of their peoples and their commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation through South-South cooperation.

Although there have been significant achievements, our world is still very much a world of vast difference. More than a billion of the world's people still languish in absolute poverty. The years ahead will be challenging for all nations, developed and developing alike, but to achieve mutual prosperity it is essential to work towards an equitable world economy and an enabling global environment that allows all nations and peoples to prosper and escape from the poverty trap that afflict the great majority.

On the eve of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it is therefore only fitting that the Member States of the Group of 77 and China on this occasion should renew their commitment to their continued solidarity and for commemorative activities in the various Chapters of the Group of 77 to reflect on the role and contribution of the United Nations system to the goals and objectives of the Group as a manifestation of the importance it attaches to multilateral cooperation and development.

My best wishes on this special occasion for memorable celebrations as a tribute to our founding fathers who established the Group of 77 on this day 48 years ago.
