

Statement of the Republic of the Sudan

Delivered By

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Minister of Foreign Trade

Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Sudan

Before

**The Twelfth Session of the United National Conference
On Trade and Development**

- UNCTAD XII -

***“Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of
Globalization for Development”***

**Accra-Ghana
(20-25 April 2008)**

Mr. Chairperson

**HE Secretary- General of UNCTAD Dr. Supashi
Honorable Ministers;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I would like at the outset to associate our delegation with previous speakers in expressing our deep appreciation to the Government, and the people of Ghana for the warm hospitality accorded to us and for the excellent arrangements extended to the participants. We are confident that convening this meeting in this beautiful and historical city of Accra augurs well for the success of our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman

This conference is taking place at the backdrop of several developments and challenges of a global nature. These include serious global financial turmoil and rising prices of food commodities to the poorest nations. Climate change has emerged as a global challenge threatening the very existence of communities, eroding the trade and economic gains achieved by many countries and causing the eruption of conflict. This call for the harnessing of our political will to push for a new international accord.

It is thus fitting that the theme of the conference is addressing challenges and opportunities of globalization. The fact that the conference is being held in the African Continent provides a unique opportunity to address in a more focused manner the particular set of problems and challenges facing the African countries. We fully concur with the Secretary –General of the United Nations that Africa represents the Centre of the development challenge. We are hopeful that this conference will significantly contribute to meet these challenges.

Mr. Chairman

While the accelerating pace in the interrelated process of liberalization and globalization in the world economy has increased opportunities for growth and development, it has also resulted in new challenges in managing global interdependence and increased risks for marginalization of LDCs.

In order for developing countries and in particular the LDCs to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and positively integrate into the global economy their vulnerability to shocks and crisis should be mitigated through combined national and international measures . The LDCs have reaffirmed their commitment to continue their macro economic and fiscal policies reforms and creating an enabling environment to diversify their economic base and to improve their productive capacities. However domestic efforts are necessary yet insufficient to ensure sustained, accelerated and balanced economic growth and development. The support of our development partners is a crucial complement to our national level actions.

Such support both financial and technical from partners would go a long way in alleviating the supply side constraints, and enhance diversification and

competitiveness. In addition it is imperative to address the crushing debts burdens of LDCs and fully and effectively implement the enhanced Integrated Framework.

Mr. Chairman

Sudan strongly supports South- South cooperation, and the value of utilizing geographical proximity to forge strong trade and economic cooperation between countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This should be accorded high priority to be as a major instrument for the promotion of collective self-reliance as well as for the strengthening of world trade as a whole. However, we believe that South- South cooperation should not be an alternative for international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman

Aware of the above-mentioned challenges, and in order to adapt its economy to the new changes in the international economic and trading system, Sudan has been implementing since 1990 a comprehensive economic and trade reforms package within the context of the Comprehensive National Strategy, aiming at liberalizing the economy and enhancing the role of the private sector, and reducing the adjustment cost of the reform programs.

On Jan. 9, 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing to an end Africa's longest-running civil war that has caused tragic loss of lives and destroyed the infrastructure. Signing of the CPA with the other two peace agreements, the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), and the Eastern Peace Agreement (EPA), brings peace and security to the people of Sudan who have endured these conflicts for a long time. Peace, stability and development are truly the aspirations shared by the whole people of the Sudan. We therefore call upon international community to help sustain peace and also assist in getting on board the non-signatories of the Darfur peace agreement.

All our peace agreements contain wealth sharing arrangements, which would require substantial infrastructure and development projects that are beyond the country's fiscal capacity, despite Sudan's positive over all economic outlook.

These efforts have been impeded by external debts burden. This heavy external debt and the discrimination faced in the debt relief initiatives prevent the country from accessing concession finance which could have assisted Sudan's efforts to achieve its developmental goals and the cancellation of debts urgently needed.

Mr. Chairman

A Conducive environment has been created for attracting FDI in many sectors specially, agriculture, animal resources, energy, and light industries. Its attractiveness has been documented by international and regional organizations in routine reports and which have proved Sudan's foremost place in FDI attraction between Arab and Africa countries (Second place).

Mr. Chairman

The role of international trade as an engine of growth and development is of course indisputable. A breakthrough in the Doha Round is thus needed if we are to preserve its development dimension, which is crucial for the developing countries particularly the LDCs. It further reinforces the urgent need to guarantee an equitable fair international trading system, one that would safeguard the interest of developing countries, especially LDCs for duty free and quota free market access and the elimination of agricultural subsidies.

In this spirit Sudan had applied for membership to the WTO in 1994 and is still waiting accession. We would like to recall the Maseru Declaration of the LDCs Trade Ministers meeting which calls for a binding mechanism to fast-track the accession of LDCs in accordance with the relevant decision of the WTO's General Council decision adopted in 2002, and members shall refrain from taking non- trade issues towards acceding countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Sudan greatly values and appreciates the critical role played by UNCTAD, especially its crucial role in assisting the UN in addressing the structural problems and systemic issues pertaining to the world economy and the international environment.

We believe that any reform effort must place at its heart the objective of strengthening, and not weakening UNCTAD's ability to carry out its main mandated functions and providing it with the necessary funding.

In an increasingly complex global economy , UNCTAD has an important role to play as an institution with universal membership and a mandate to serve as the focal point the UN for trade and development, we would like to suggest the followings:-

UNCTAD should help in;

- Strengthening the agriculture sector,
- Construction of regional model in agriculture and infrastructure.
- Building and supporting national institutions to implement development programmes ,
- Capacity building through technical education , on job training to acquire the latest technology transfer,
- Agro-manufacturing aim at maximizing of food security.

Finally, in order to correct the serious democratic deficiency which is at the heart of the international system, where most developing countries, particularly LDCs have limited influence, a fundamental reform of the institution's voting system and a redistribution of voting power in favor of the developing countries, particular the LDCs, is urgently required. A comprehensive plan of action in favor of LDCs to enable them to overcome the globalization challenges is urgently required.

I thank you Chair