



# THE GROUP OF 77

New York  
Office of the Chairman

N-032/2009

The Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Division for Sustainable Development, and with reference to the Note Verbale of the Secretariat dated 6 March 2009 (reference: DESA-09/0314), requesting the views of Member States on the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development, has the honour to transmit herewith the views of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China on the aforementioned subject as contained in the attached position paper.

The Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the he United Nations Secretariat, Division for Sustainable Development, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 May 2009.

United Nations Secretariat  
Division for Sustainable Development  
United Nations, New York





29 May 2009

**POSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON THE POSSIBILITY  
OF HOLDING A HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT\***

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Members States of the Group of 77 and China, in the Declaration issued on the occasion of their Thirty-Second Annual Meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2008, “welcomed the offer made by the Government of Brazil to host in 2012 a World Summit on Sustainable Development to review the 20-year progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, on 3-14 June 1992, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 26 August-4 September 2002” (paragraph 35 of document A/63/464).

2. At the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Group strongly supported this initiative through its draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.27 of 4 November 2008 under agenda item 49(a) of the Second Committee, entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”, particularly in preambular paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 and operative paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8.

3. Therefore, the Group wishes to reiterate the following:

a) The challenges in achieving the goals of the three pillars of sustainable development have been further exacerbated by the current global crises;

b) Despite some progress since the landmark conferences of 1972, 1992 and 2002, many commitments by the international community have not been fully met, leading to a persistent implementation gap;

c) A 2012 UN Conference would provide the appropriate high-level political forum for an overall review and appraisal of obstacles faced, progress achieved and for identifying measures and creative approaches to bridge the implementation gap towards the objective of achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty;

d) The review would focus on identifying accomplishments and areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as action-oriented decisions to address new challenges and avail of opportunities;

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\* In response to the Note Verbale dated 6 March 2009 (Ref: DESA-09/03124) from the Secretariat of the United Nations inviting Member States to express their views on the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 63/212.

e) A 2012 conference would secure renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development;

f) A 2012 conference would reiterate the centrality of the Rio Declaration on Development and Environment, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

g) A preparatory process, including modalities for negotiations, should be decided upon by the General Assembly at its 64<sup>th</sup> session, taking adequately into account the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to avoiding duplication of work;

4. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its support to the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

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