

**XIV MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
(MIDTERM REVIEW)**

Durban, South Africa, 17-19 August 2004

FINAL DOCUMENT

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I: GLOBAL ISSUES

- The international context since the Kuala Lumpur Summit
- The Role of the Non-Aligned Movement
- North-South Dialogue
- Dialogue among Civilisations
- United Nations Millennium Declaration
- Strengthening, Restructuring, Revitalising and Democratising the United Nations
- Financial Situation of the United Nations
- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- Post Conflict Peace-Building Activities
- Regional Organisations
- The Right to Self-Determination and Decolonisation
- Mercenaries
- Disarmament and International Security
- Indian Ocean
- Terrorism
- International Law
- Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
- Culture of Peace

CHAPTER II: ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- Palestine
- Syrian Golan
- Lebanon
- The Peace Process

AFRICA

- Great Lakes Region
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Burundi
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Somalia
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Angola
- Western Sahara
- Chagos Archipelago
- Sudan

ASIA

- Syria
- Situation between Iraq and Kuwait

- Iraq
- Korean Peninsula
- Afghanistan
- Southeast Asia
- Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- South American Zone of Peace and Co-operation
- Cuba
- Venezuela
- Guyana and Venezuela
- Belize and Guatemala
- Colombia

CHAPTER III: ECONOMIC ISSUES

- Globalisation and Interdependence
- Revitalising International Co-operation for Development
- International Trade
- Commodities
- Financial, Investment and Monetary Issues
- Foreign Direct Investment
- External Debt
- Sustainable Development
- Food Security
- Science and Technology
- Information and Communication
- South-South Co-operation
- Critical Economic Situation in Africa
- Least Developed Countries
- Landlocked Developing Countries
- Small Island Developing States

CHAPTER IV: SOCIAL ISSUES

- Social Development
- International Migration and Development
- Human Rights
- International Humanitarian Law
- Humanitarian Issues
- Racism and Racial Discrimination
- Advancement of Women
- The Situation of Children
- Transnational Crime
- International Drug Control
- Global Road Safety

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) met in Durban, South Africa, on 19 August 2004 to review the developments and implementation of decisions of the XIII Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24 to 25 February 2003, to prepare for the next Summit, and to discuss matters of urgency.
2. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the Report of the Chair on the Activities of the Movement since the XIII Kuala Lumpur Summit, which contributed to the strengthening and the promotion of the unity and solidarity of the Movement.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to preserve intact the noble ideals and principles of the Movement as articulated at the Bandung Conference in 1955, as well as the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter, so as to further consolidate the Movement's role as a leading force in the 21st century.
4. The Ministers welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the XIV Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana, Cuba, September 2006.

CHAPTER I: GLOBAL ISSUES

The international context since the Kuala Lumpur Summit

5. The Ministers emphasised that the international situation continues to be marked by rapid and dramatic evolution, presenting numerous opportunities and challenges to the international community and the Non-Aligned Movement. They reaffirmed the positions expressed in the Final Document of the XIII Kuala Lumpur Summit on the Review of the International Situation, and reiterated the determination of their leaders to make every effort to further strengthen the Movement's capacity for action and to develop concrete modalities to enhance the influence and impact of its decisions on world affairs.
6. The Ministers reiterated the importance of the promotion and strengthening of the multilateral process, and addressing of international challenges and problems by strictly abiding by the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law and further stressed their commitment to multilateralism. In this regard, they also stressed the vital role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international co-operation as was reaffirmed in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 58/317 of 5 August 2004. They expressed their rejection of unilateralism, which is increasingly leading to the erosion and violation of international law, to the use and threat of use of force and to pressure and coercion by certain countries as a means to achieving their policy objectives. They strongly condemned labelling of countries as good or evil and repressive based on unilateral and unjustified criteria and reiterated their firm condemnation of all unilateral military actions without proper authorisation from the United Nations Security Council, as well as of threats of military action against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States of the Movement which constitute acts of aggression and blatant violations of the principle of non-intervention and non-interference. They also firmly condemned unfounded biased accusations by certain countries against members of the Movement and underscored the dangers those accusations might entail for peace, security and stability.
7. The Ministers, recalling the commitment to strengthening multilateralism expressed in the UN General Assembly resolution A/Res/58/317 on "Strengthening of the United Nations system", called for evolving common perceptions and agreed approaches to address both the new and existing threats to international peace and security. In this regard, while underscoring that the process of UN reform should not take place at the expense of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Ministers emphasized the need for institutional reforms in the UN system which should promote greater democracy, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
8. The Ministers reiterated the rejection by the Non-Aligned Movement of the so-called "right" of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis either in United Nations Charter or in international law and requested the Co-ordinating Bureau (CoB) in New York to continue to be seized with this issue as well as other related matters in accordance with the principled position of the Non-Aligned Movement; they also observed similarities between the new expression "responsibility to protect" and "humanitarian intervention" and requested the Co-ordinating Bureau to carefully study and consider the expression "the responsibility to protect" and its implications on the basis of the principles of non-interference and non-intervention as well as the respect for territorial integrity and

national sovereignty of States.

9. The Ministers recalled the decision of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Algiers in July 1999, calling for the restoration of constitution legality in States whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means, and encouraged, in this context, Member States to continue to uphold the democratic ideals consistent with the Principles of the Movement
10. The Ministers recognised that the globalised economy offers great opportunities, but expressed concern that its benefits continue to be very unevenly shared and its costs unfairly distributed. They called for measures to ensure that developing countries participate in and benefit from globalisation. The Ministers noted that the gap between the developed and developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), continues to widen, and expressed particular concern over the economic situation in the LDCs, the majority of which are in Africa. They reiterated that peace cannot be consolidated without rectifying the growing international inequalities. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, as well as the full implementation of all internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as an important step in addressing the urgent needs of developing countries.

The Role of the Non-Aligned Movement

11. The Ministers reaffirmed their irrevocable political and moral commitment to, and full respect for, the founding principles of the Movement as well as the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter. In order for the Movement to enhance its role at the international level, they agreed that the Movement must continue to work on expanding and reinforcing its ability and capacity for initiative, representation and negotiation, as well as its ethical, political and moral strength as the principal forum representing the interests and aspirations of the developing world. Furthermore, they recognised that the attainment of the objectives of the Movement hinges upon the solidarity of its Members, its unity and cohesion, founded on a culture of peace, development and co-operation. The Ministers reaffirmed that the solidarity among its members is a must for the Movement, mainly when NAM countries are threatened from abroad through acts of aggression, the threat to use force or unilateral coercive measures, all of which are, by nature, contrary to the principles of the Movement and of the international law.
12. The Ministers reiterated their resolve to achieve the goals outlined in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Continuing the Revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement and to strive to implement the concrete measures in the Declaration. In realising the goal of revitalising the Non-Aligned Movement, the Ministers re-emphasised the need to exert every effort towards the promotion of multilateralism through strengthening of the United Nations, as an indispensable international organisation for the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of human rights, social and economic development and respect for international law, as enshrined in the Charter.
13. The Ministers noted the growing importance of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries/Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC/TCDC) for the enhancement of people-centred development as well as

capitalizing of local resources through interaction among development actors and partnership. In this context, while recognising that developing countries have the primary responsibilities for expanding ECDC/TCDC, through the strengthening of South-South Co-operation, the Heads of State or Government stressed the role that development partners, particularly donor countries, can play in supporting these endeavours, facilitating triangular co-operation and strengthening South institutions.

14. In order for the Movement to enhance its role at the international level, the Ministers reaffirmed the positions of the NAM Summits and Ministerial Meetings. They stressed the need to utilise fully and efficiently all existing mechanisms and institutions, such as the Troika, the Coordinating Bureau and all existing working groups, committees, the Non-Aligned Caucus of the Security Council, and establish new ones as appropriate; utilise more effectively the regular NAM Foreign Ministers Meetings; and expand, deepen and enrich South-South Co-operation. They also took note of the deliberations in the Interactive Ministerial Session held on 22 February 2003 in Kuala Lumpur on the theme “Continuing the Revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement.”
15. The Ministers welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Co-ordinating Bureau (CoB) to revive the relevant NAM mechanisms and are convinced that they would greatly contribute towards further enhancing the overall achievement of the goals and objectives of the Movement. They encouraged the CoB to continue to identify and implement other measures and modalities in the on-going efforts to revitalise the Movement.
16. The Ministers welcomed the strengthening of co-ordination among NAM countries in The Hague and Vienna, as well as the continued co-ordination in Geneva, and were convinced that these mechanisms would contribute to the unity and further increase the effectiveness of NAM in the multilateral fora. They emphasised the need for these mechanisms and the CoB in New York, in its capacity as the focal point for co-ordination, to continue to closely co-ordinate their activities in addressing the concerns of the Movement. They reiterated the importance of the strengthening of the co-ordination and co-operation between the NAM and the Group of 77 and China (G77) through the Joint Co-ordinating Committee (JCC) in the promotion and defence of the common interest of the developing countries. In this regard, they encouraged the JCC to meet on a regular basis, as necessary. They welcomed the meeting of the JCC which took place in New York in November 2003 and call on the NAM and G77 to continue to coordinate their activities.
17. The Ministers took note of the efforts of the CoB in establishing the Working Group on the Plan of Action on the Role of the NAM to formulate a Plan of Action in fulfilment of the request by their leaders as enumerated in paragraph 19 of the Final Document of the Kuala Lumpur Summit. They requested the CoB to continue its deliberations on the Plan of Action on the basis of the concrete measures contained in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Continuing the Revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement.
18. The Ministers welcomed the initiative of the Government of Indonesia, to hold in co-operation with the Government of South Africa, the commemoration of the golden jubilee of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia in 2005. They welcomed the First Conference of the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organisations in Bandung, on 16 to 17 April 2003 and the Second Conference (AASROC II) to be held in Durban, South Africa on 19 to 20 August 2004. They believed that such an occasion could further

strengthen good relations and solidarity among developing countries.

North-South Dialogue

19. The Ministers underscored the importance of promoting a more dynamic and co-operative relationship with the developed and industrialised countries, based on constructive engagement, broad partnership and mutuality of benefits. To this end, the Ministers requested that the NAM, in co-ordination with the G77 analyse the matter in order to propose to their counterparts on subjects and the methods for the launching of the dialogue.

Dialogue among Civilisations

20. The Ministers recalled the positions of the NAM adopted at both the XII Durban Summit and the XIII Cartagena Ministerial Conference stressing that the Dialogue among Civilisations should be a durable process, and reaffirmed their support for the strengthening and institutionalisation of these processes at regional and international levels. They emphasised that in the current international environment, dialogue among civilisations is not an option but an imperative. In this connection, they recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which underscored tolerance as a fundamental value of international relations in the 21st Century, and which called for the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilisations. They further welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of a Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilisations contained in Resolution A/56/6, and are convinced that implementation of its programme of action positively contributes to international efforts to attain universal peace, welfare and stability.

United Nations Millennium Declaration

21. The Ministers acknowledged their collective responsibility to uphold the principles and implement the commitments of the Millennium Declaration. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004 on the integrated and co-ordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which decided to convene in New York in 2005, a High-Level plenary meeting to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals. They urged the international community, especially the developed countries, to ensure the durable implementation of the commitments, targets, goals and objectives, as reflected in the specific outcomes of the summits and conferences within their mandates.

Strengthening, Restructuring, Revitalising and Democratising the United Nations

22. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and underscored the need to preserve and promote the centrality and sanctity of its principles and purposes.
23. The Ministers expressed their concern that the impact of the United Nations reforms on the developing countries is yet to be felt, given the continuous decline in the resources

made available to the United Nations for multilateral development co-operation as well as the impasse in the appropriation of new resources for the development account. They considered that the success of the reform of the United Nations can only be judged in terms of the improvements in its functioning and due consideration of the interests of the developing countries. They recognised the need for further reform of the United Nations to make it a more effective instrument for pursuing the purposes and principles as enshrined in its Charter, especially the promotion of economic development and the maintenance of international peace and security notably the principles of peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force in international relations as reaffirmed by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/70 on 11 December 1985. In this regard, they noted the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the strengthening, restructuring, reform and revitalising the United Nations.

24. The Ministers reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international co-operation as contained in the NAM sponsored resolution A/RES/58/317 which was adopted by the General Assembly on 5 August 2004.
25. The Ministers noted the ongoing work of the High-Level Panel set up by the UN Secretary-General on Threats, Challenges and Change. They emphasized the need for inclusive, open-ended and transparent consultations among Member States for a rigorous process of consideration and decision-making by the UN General Assembly on the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General on the report of the Panel. In this connection, they entrusted the CoB of NAM to remain closely seized of the matter.
26. The Ministers, while noting the preparatory process for the 2005 High-level Event “Comprehensive Review of Millennium Declaration” which would review the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the all major UN Conferences and Summits in the economic and social fields stressed that the agenda of the event should clearly focus on development issues; the outcome should be inter-governmentally negotiated through an inclusive, open-ended and transparent preparatory process.
27. The Ministers stressed the strengthening of the role of the UN in promoting international co-operation for development and in implementing the Development Goals. They proposed that the resources released as a result of the implementation of new reformed measures as approved by the General Assembly should be devoted to activities and programmes related to international co-operation for development. The Ministers welcomed efforts to strengthen the contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to the work of the United Nations and its bodies through the consultative arrangements of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). They emphasised that the contribution of the private sector, NGOs and Civil Society in the realisation of the United Nations’ goals and programmes should be in accordance with the appropriate United Nations General Assembly resolutions and should serve the purposes and principles laid out in the United Nations Charter. They emphasised that this contribution should also seek to address the obstacles that developing countries face in mobilising the resources needed to finance their sustainable development.
28. The Ministers, while noting the interdependence between peace and development, underlined that the United Nations Reforms must accord equal emphasis to enhancing the

UN's role in promoting the global development agenda, in particular the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They stressed the respective prerogatives and functions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council as defined in the Charter and the need for modalities to enhance the co-ordination among these organs which constituted the framework for the achievements of the purposes of the United Nations.

29. The Ministers noted with concern the continuing lack of progress in the discussions in the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council. These discussions have shown that, while a convergence of views has emerged on a number of issues, major differences still exist on many others. They called on the Permanent Representatives of the NAM Member States in New York to continue, in the ensuing negotiations in the Open-Ended Working Group, to pursue NAM directives adopted during the XI, XII and XIII Summits, which have been contained in the Movement's position and negotiating papers and the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences and Ministerial Meetings. They requested the Working Group to continue its consideration of the issue.
30. The Ministers expressed their support for the work of the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa in the discharge of its responsibilities to co-ordinate the UN support to Africa, guide reporting on Africa and co-ordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and called on the United Nations entities to mobilise additional resources to fully fund their activities in support of NEPAD.
31. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's position that the imposition of sanctions is an issue of serious concern for Non-Aligned Countries. They reaffirmed that the imposition of sanctions in accordance with the United Nations Charter should be considered only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter have been exhausted and a thorough consideration undertaken of the short-term and long-term effects of such sanctions. Sanctions are a blunt instrument, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country are legitimate means of exerting pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution. In this regard, they reiterated that the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined. These should be imposed for a specified time frame and be based on tenable legal grounds and should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the country or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and subject to periodic review. Attempts to impose or to prolong the application of sanctions to achieve political ends should be rejected.
32. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to work collectively for the promotion of democracy and for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries. We reiterate that democracy is based on the free will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We affirm that while all democracies share common features, there is no one model of democracy. We express our conviction that within the international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, only those processes established on the basis of respect to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and on transparency, impartiality,

non-selectivity and inclusiveness, could contribute to the attainment of the goal of democracy consolidation at national and international levels. Therefore, we condemn any politically motivated attempt or misuse of the international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, including the marginalization or exclusion of member States of NAM from the full participation and equal opportunities of membership in the intergovernmental bodies of the UN system.

Financial Situation of the United Nations

33. The Ministers agreed that the financial situation of the Organisation continues to be a cause for concern, as a result of the failure on the part of some Member States, especially the major contributor, to meet their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. They therefore urged all countries in arrears, in particular the major contributor, to settle their outstanding dues without further delay and to pay their future assessments in full, on time and without imposing preconditions. They also expressed their concern over the continuing practice of cross borrowing from the Peacekeeping Budget to the Regular Budget of the United Nations, and the delay in reimbursement of troop and equipment contributing countries, and affirmed the principle of capacity to pay as a fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the Organisation. They recognised the special situation faced by some developing countries that hamper their ability to pay their assessed contributions.
34. The Ministers stressed the importance to provide the Organization with the level of resources needed to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with the provision of General Assembly Resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions, in particular GA resolution 42/211. In this context, they expressed concern over the negative impact in the implementation of mandated programmes and activities and in the quality of services provided to Member States of the cutback measures approved by the General Assembly. They reiterated the importance of priority setting at the United Nations. They also expressed their full support to the eight priorities areas proposed by the Secretary General in his strategic framework for the period 2006/2007, which are the same approved for the period 2002/2005.
35. The Ministers reaffirmed the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations as set out in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. They reiterated the view that a proper balance should be struck between the level and urgency with which peacekeeping activities are funded on the one hand, and availability of resources needed for full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities by the General Assembly, in particular in the economic and social spheres on the other.

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

36. The Ministers reaffirmed the guiding principles regarding peacekeeping operations adopted at the XI Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in 1994 and reiterated the Movement's position on peacekeeping operations adopted by the XII Summit held in Durban in 1998, and further reiterated at the XIII Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in 2003.
37. The Ministers recognised the surge in UN peacekeeping operations currently underway

and reiterated the Movement's longstanding position that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security resides with the United Nations and that the role of regional arrangements, in that regard, should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and should not in any way substitute the role of the United Nations, or circumvent the full application of the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping.

38. The Ministers reaffirmed that peacekeeping constitutes an important instrument at the disposal of the Organisation in fulfilling its responsibility, and stressed the need to avoid selectivity and double standards in establishing United Nations peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa. They recognised the challenges in adequately addressing the needs in major conflicts and emphasised the need for the UN to be fully engaged. They stressed that the international community should be responsive and shoulder the responsibilities. In this regard, and within the framework of the predicted surge in peacekeeping activities in Africa, the Ministers called upon NAM member states to continue to provide direct contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa and for the UN to support the regional comprehensive strategies pursued by the African Union in the continent.
39. The Ministers continued to believe that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, co-ordinated and comprehensive manner, with other political, social economic and developmental instruments. They further maintained that consideration should be given by the United Nations to the manner by which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of peacekeeping operations, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security.
40. The Ministers recognised that the increasing complexity and multidimensional nature of ongoing peacekeeping operations posed several challenges, including the issue of safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. They emphasised the need for the United Nations to plan and manage peacekeeping operations effectively, and to deploy the operation rapidly, taking into account the need to consider a specific but flexible timeframe, after the adoption of a United Nations mandate.
41. The Ministers reaffirmed the position that the funding of United Nations peacekeeping operations through voluntary contributions should not influence United Nations Security Council decisions to establish peacekeeping operations or affect their mandates.
42. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of consultations between troop contributing countries and the Security Council, and called for their institutionalisation. In keeping with this objective, they urged the Security Council to implement, without delay, proposals for establishing a new mechanism for such co-operation, as envisaged in the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, and in the proposals made by a number of troop contributing countries. As a first step, they called for the effective implementation of the mechanisms laid down in Security Council Resolution 1353 (2001) and in the Note of the President of the Security Council dated 14 January, 2002 (S/2002/56).
43. The Ministers expressed the Movement's belief that the Security Council should ascertain the views of prospective troop contributing countries before and during the

drafting of mandates for United Nations peacekeeping operations, since these countries are primarily responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Council's mandate on the ground. While authorising the use of force, the Security Council should adhere to the provisions of Articles 43 and 44 of the Charter of the United Nations.

44. The Ministers underlined that planning within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must be more transparent and effective and that troop contributing countries should be consulted at all stages of a mission. The Movement remains concerned over the staffing structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat whereby NAM Member Countries are insufficiently represented, particularly at professional levels. They reiterated their belief that personnel from Non-Aligned Movement Member Countries should be sufficiently represented, without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical representation.
45. The Ministers encouraged the participation of Non-Aligned countries in United Nations peacekeeping operations and, mindful of the difficulties faced by many countries in complying with rapid deployment timeframes, meeting deployment costs and bridging the gap between troops and equipment, they emphasised that the United Nations should work toward overcoming these difficulties.
46. In recalling the proposals by the United Nations Secretary General for procurement reform as outlined in A/52/534, the Ministers again emphasised the critical importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations. The Movement remained concerned over the negligible share of Non-Aligned and other developing countries in United Nations procurement. In this regard, the Movement reiterated its view that there is a need to ensure greater United Nations procurement from developing countries, especially Non-Aligned countries, in particular through the implementation of the provision of preferential treatment.

Post Conflict Peace-Building Activities

47. The Ministers reaffirmed the adoption of the concept of Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation (DDRR) to be implemented during United Nations peacekeeping operations and post conflict reconstruction upon request and with the consent of the State concerned. They also reaffirmed the importance of sustaining peace including through international co-operation to allow time and resources required to rebuild war torn societies and states, which would promote the irreversibility of peace achieved and provide meaningful reintegration of combatants into the society.
48. The Ministers reaffirmed the distinction between humanitarian assistance and United Nations peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations as well as operational activities and emphasised that humanitarian assistance is designed to address the consequences and not the causes thereof. Humanitarian assistance should be kept distinct from and independent of political or military action. It must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as guiding principles contained in General Assembly Resolution 46/182 of 12 December 1991, national legislation and international humanitarian law.
49. The Ministers reaffirmed that without any prejudice to the competence of the other

principal organs of the United Nations' respective roles in post conflict peace-building (PCPB) activities, the General Assembly, in consultation with regional organisations, must have the key role in the formulation of PCPB activities. In this regard, they also recognised the importance of the concerted actions of international agencies to actively support the national programmes particularly of NAM Countries, which are in the process of recovery from recent conflicts, for reconstruction and rehabilitation, including the promotion of a culture of peace, which paves the way for the achievement of economic and social development. They reaffirmed that the implementation of PCPB activities requires the full consultation and consent of the parties concerned, and should be based on the principles of international law and United Nations Charter. The Ministers noted the potential role Civil Society could play in assisting in the formulation and implementation of PCPB activities.

Regional Organisations

50. The Ministers underscored the important role that regional arrangements and agencies, composed of Non-Aligned and other developing countries, can play in the promotion of regional peace and security as well as economic and social development through co-operation among countries in the region, and called for the intensification of the process of consultations, co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organisations, arrangements or agencies, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, as well as on their mandates, scope and composition.

The Right to Self-Determination and Decolonisation

51. The Ministers underlined the continued validity of the fundamental and inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, is essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Ministers strongly condemned ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world.
52. The Ministers reaffirmed the inalienable right of peoples of the non-self governing territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 regardless of the territory's size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement renewed its commitment to hasten the complete elimination of colonialism and support the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. They welcomed General Assembly Resolution 55/146, which declares the Second Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism from 2001 to 2010. In this respect, the principle of self-determination with respect to the remaining territories within the framework of the Programme of Action of the Special Committee on Decolonisation should be implemented in accordance with the wishes of the people consistent with United Nations General Assembly resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations. The Ministers reiterated that any attempts aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
53. The Ministers once again reaffirmed the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-

determination and independence on the basis of Resolution 1514 (XV) of December 1960 by the United Nations General Assembly, and also reaffirmed that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation. The Movement took note of the resolution on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonisation by consensus in 2000, 2001 and 2002, 2003 and 2004, which, inter alia, urged the United States Government, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to return the occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the people of Puerto Rico.

54. The Ministers reiterated their strong support for the Special Committee on Decolonisation, which is an important subsidiary body of the General Assembly and again called upon the Administering Powers to grant their full support to the activities of the Committee.
55. They reaffirmed the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation. They further reaffirmed the call made in the final documents of the XII and XIII Summits of the Non-Aligned Movement, that colonialist countries should shoulder their responsibility and pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of the occupation of developing countries. They also expressed their concern at the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas or armed conflict and territories that are occupied.

Mercenaries

56. The Ministers condemned the practice of recruiting, financing, training, transit, use or supporting of mercenaries as a violation to the principles of international law, such as those of sovereign equality, political independence, and territorial integrity of States and of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They reiterated their belief that mercenarism, in all its forms and its motivation, constitutes an obstacle to peace and the exercise of sovereignty by Non-Aligned countries. This endangers the national security of States, especially small States, as well as the safety and stability of multi-ethnic States and impedes the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination. They welcomed the entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries of 4 December 1989, and called on all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the necessary action to ratify the Convention or to become party to it and reaffirmed United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/57/196 of 18 December 2002 as well as Resolution 2004/5 of the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Disarmament and International Security

57. The Ministers reaffirmed and reiterated the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XII Summit in Durban, the XIII Summit in Kuala Lumpur and the XIII Ministerial Conference in Cartagena.

58. The Ministers expressed their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed prescriptions and in this context strongly underlined and affirmed that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, provided the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of Resolution 58/44 by the General Assembly on the "Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-proliferation".
59. The Ministers remained deeply concerned at strategic defence doctrines that set out rationales for the use of nuclear weapons. They remained deeply concerned over the "Alliance Strategic Concept" adopted by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in April 1999, which not only maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and policies of nuclear deterrence, but also includes new elements aimed at opening even more the scope for possible use or threat of use of force by NATO.
60. In the context of the Nuclear Posture Review that has been undertaken by the United States of America, the Ministers expressed serious concern that the development of new types of nuclear weapons are being considered and reiterated that the provision for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapon States is in contravention of the security assurances that have been provided by the Nuclear Weapons States. They restated that the development of new types of nuclear weapons is in contravention with the undertakings provided by the Nuclear Weapons States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that the Treaty would prevent the improvement of existing nuclear weapons and development of new types of nuclear weapons.
61. The Ministers reiterated their principled positions on nuclear disarmament and the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation and stressed the importance that the efforts aiming at non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. They also reiterated deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament, which remains their highest priority. They also expressed their concern about the lack of progress by the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. They also stressed their concern at the threat to humanity derived from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. The Ministers underscored the need for the Nuclear Weapon States to implement the unequivocal undertaking that they provided in 2000 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons and emphasised, in this regard, the urgent need to commence negotiations without delay.
62. The Ministers, while noting the signing of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reduction between the Russian Federation and the United States on 24 May 2002, stressed that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons.
63. The Ministers reaffirmed that in efforts towards the objective of nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

64. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. They regretted that the continued inflexible postures of some of the Nuclear Weapon States continue to prevent the Conference on Disarmament from establishing an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament. They emphasised the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They reiterated their call on the Conference on Disarmament to establish as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament. They underlined once again the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this regard, they regretted that no progress has been made in the fulfilment of this obligation despite the lapse of eight years.
65. The Ministers again called for an international conference, at the earliest possible date, with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time to eliminate all nuclear weapons, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction. In this context, they reiterated the resolve at the Millennium Summit by the Heads of State or Government as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers.
66. The Ministers reaffirmed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and reaffirmed further that non-nuclear-weapon States should be effectively assured by nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. They reiterated their conviction that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to Non-Nuclear-Weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority by the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement.
67. The Ministers continued to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile defence systems and the pursuit of advanced military technologies capable of being deployed in outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missiles (ABM) brings new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They remained concerned that the implementation of a national missile defence system could trigger an arms race(s) and the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/36, they emphasised the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work, in the Conference on Disarmament, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
68. The Ministers welcomed the report prepared by the First Panel of Governmental Experts

on the Issue of Missiles in all its aspects, which marked the first time the United Nations considered this issue. They were disappointed at the reported outcome of the Second Panel of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles which was convened to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. They remained convinced of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent, and non-discriminatory approach towards missiles in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security. They expressed their support for efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this regard, they emphasised the need to keep the issue on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. Pending the achievement of such a universal mechanism related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, any initiative to address these concerns effectively and in a sustainable and comprehensive manner should be through an inclusive process of negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals. They stressed the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and international levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this context, they emphasised the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body of the international community.

69. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's long-standing principled position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing. They stressed the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all the Nuclear Weapons States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. They expressed their satisfaction that 172 States have signed the Treaty and 115 States have ratified it thus far. They reiterated that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the Nuclear Weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.
70. The Ministers continued to consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. The Movement welcomed the efforts aimed at establishing new nuclear-weapons-free zones in all regions of the world and calls for co-operation and broad consultation in order to achieve agreements freely arrived at between the States of the region concerned. They reiterated that in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that Nuclear Weapon States should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. They urged States to conclude agreements with a view to establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and the principles and guidelines adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session. In this context, they reiterated their support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and considered that the institutionalisation of that status would be an important measure towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region. They called for the continuation of the consultations between ASEAN and the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) on the Protocol of Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty and urged the NWS to become parties to the Protocol of the Treaty as soon as possible. They also welcomed the decision by all five Central Asian States to sign the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible. They also expressed their support to the initiative of convening an international conference of the States parties, ratifiers and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok

and Pelindaba to discuss and implement further ways and means of co-operation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States, at an appropriate time

71. The Ministers reiterated the support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To this end, they reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfilment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, they demanded on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States and condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. They were of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbours, and the region. They further welcomed the initiative by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and in this context they took into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29th of December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They stressed that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. They also called for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they expressed their serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one Nuclear Weapon State. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.
72. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT, while welcoming the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, expressed their disappointment at the failure of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference held in New York from 26 April – 7 May 2004 to agree on the agenda of and substantive recommendations to the 2005 Review Conference. In this regard, they continued to reiterate their call for the firm commitment by all States parties to the Treaty to the implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty and called for the full implementation of the unequivocal undertaking given by the Nuclear Weapons States to the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. They continue to expect that this undertaking be demonstrated without delay through an accelerated process of negotiations and through the full implementation of the thirteen practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they also recalled that the 2000 Review Conference in its

Final Document reiterated that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear weapons states to the non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. They took note of the First and Second Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. They recalled that subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees were established at the 2000 Review Conference to deliberate on and consider proposals on the provisions in Article VI of the NPT and in paragraphs 3 and 4 (C) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", dealing with nuclear disarmament, as well as on the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. In this context, they continued to reaffirm and underline the importance to establish at the 2005 Review Conference subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT, and to consider security assurances.

73. The Ministers reaffirmed the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. They continued to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. They again emphasised that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development. In this regard they also expressed their strong rejection of attempts by any Member State to use the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) technical co-operation programme as a tool for political purposes in violation of the IAEA's Statute.
74. The Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT emphasized once more that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with article I, II, and III of the Treaty. The Ministers stressed that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. In this connection, the Ministers confirmed that each country's choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.
75. The Ministers stressed particularly the responsibility of developed countries to promote the legitimate need of nuclear energy of the developing countries, by allowing them to participate to the fullest in possible transfer of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes with a view to achieving the largest benefits and applying pertinent elements of sustainable development in their activities.
76. The Ministers stressed that the issue of proliferation should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the framework of international law; relevant conventions; the Charter of the United Nations, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, security

and stability.

77. The Ministers regretted unsubstantiated allegations of non-compliance with relevant instruments on Weapons of Mass Destruction and called on States Parties to such instruments that make such allegations to follow the procedures set out in those instruments and to provide the necessary substantiation for their allegations.
78. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) reaffirmed their conviction that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction is essential for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security. They reaffirmed the Movement's continued determination, for the sake of humankind, that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. They recognised the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol to the Convention. They believed that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security would be enhanced through universal adherence to the Convention. They stressed the importance for all States Parties to pursue the objectives that were set forth by the Fourth Review Conference and underlined that the only sustainable method of strengthening the Convention is through multilateral negotiations aimed at concluding a non-discriminatory legally binding agreement. They have been deeply disappointed at the inability that has been demonstrated in the endeavours of the States Parties of the BWC to successfully undertake initiatives to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. They further regretted the limited nature of the decision that was taken during the resumed session of the Fifth Review Conference held from 11-15 November 2002 in Geneva and were disappointed that the opportunity to strengthen the Convention was foregone and that limited work, which at best only has the potential of enhancing the implementation of the Convention, is all that could be achieved despite the Movement's best endeavours. They believed that, however, the Movement has succeeded in preventing any attempt to foreclose the option of more meaningful work in the future. In this regard, the movement has succeeded in preserving multilateralism as the only vehicle for preventing reprehensible use of disease as instruments of terror and war in a sustainable way. They welcomed the decision of the Meeting of States Parties of the BWC held from 10 – 14 November 2003 in Geneva to approve the nomination of South Africa as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties of the BWC in 2004.
79. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) welcomed the increasing number of ratifications of the Convention and invited all States who have still not ratified it to do so as soon as possible with the view to its universality. They also underlined the urgency of satisfactorily resolving the unresolved issues in the framework of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with a view to paving the way for the effective, full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. In this context, they reiterated their call on the developed countries to promote international co-operation through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They also called upon States having declared possession of chemical weapons to bring about the destruction of their chemical weapons at the earliest possible date. While

recognising the financial and technical challenges for some possessors, they called upon those States Parties in a position to do so, and where requested, to assist such possessor States in the achievement of the ultimate goal of the Convention – the total elimination of chemical weapons. They noted with appreciation the outcome of the First Special Session of the Conference of States Parties to Review the Operation of the CWC, convened in The Hague, from 28 April-9 May 2003, and the Political Declaration, in which the States Parties reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the objective and purpose of the Convention.

80. The Ministers expressed their concern at the use of coercive methods by some countries inside international organisations, including financial influence, in the pursuit of unilateralist interests. They also expressed their concern at the impact that such unilateral acts could have on the independence of the functioning of international organisations and the multilateral system as a whole.
81. The Ministers emphasised the importance of the positive role played by the Non-Aligned members in the IAEA. They also stressed the necessity that all members of the Agency strictly observe its Statute and they supported all efforts to strengthen the role of the Agency in conformity with its Statute. They further stressed that such efforts should be a product of careful and transparent deliberation among the members with a view to reaching agreements in this regard.
82. The Ministers affirmed the need to strengthen the Radiological Safety and Protection Systems at facilities utilising radioactive materials as well as at radioactive waste management facilities, including the safe transportation of these materials. They encouraged the design of an appropriate international regime for physical protection of radioactive materials during their transportation. They reaffirmed the need to continue working at the multilateral level, with the purpose of strengthening existing international regulations relating to safety and security of transportation of such materials, and provisions for liability in the case of accidents or damage, resulting in contamination of the sea and seabed. They emphasised the need for the provision of information to concerned States regarding shipment routes, the mandatory requirements for contingency plans in case of leakage, accidents or incidents, the commitment to recover the waste material in such cases, and a comprehensive regulatory framework for obtaining compensation in case of nuclear damage. The Ministers noted the International Conference on the Safety of transport of Radioactive Material held in July 2003 and welcomed the adoption by the IAEA of an “Action Plan on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material”.
83. The Ministers welcomed the importance of Resolution 58/40 of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prohibition of the Dumping of Radioactive Wastes and called upon States to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States. They welcomed also the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity in 1991 (CM/Res.1356 {LIV}) on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Trans-boundary Movement within Africa. They called for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.

84. The Ministers reaffirmed the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities – operational or under construction – poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They recognised the need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument, prohibiting attacks, or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
85. The Ministers remained deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the United Nations Conference held from 9 - 20 July 2001 in New York which outlines a realistic, achievable and comprehensive approach, to address the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the national, regional and global levels. They remained deeply concerned over the inability of the Conference to agree, due to the position of one State, on language recognising the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms, and the need for preventing sales of such arms to non-State groups. They considered that these issues are directly related to the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons faced by many Members of the Movement. They reiterated their call on all States to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorised by Governments and to implement legal restrictions on the unrestricted trade in and ownership of small arms and light weapons. They emphasised the importance of early and full implementation of the Programme of Action. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the report of the First United Nations Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects held in New York from 7 – 11 July 2003 to consider national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action. In this regard, they encouraged the Member States to continue to play an active role in defining and elaborating the objectives of all future Conferences. They encouraged all initiatives to mobilise resources and expertise to promote implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States in their implementation of the Programme of Action. They also welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to convene the Second Biennial Meeting of States in 2005 and the convening the Review Conference in 2006 and stressed the need for a representative of the Movement to preside over the latter Conference. The Ministers also welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to establish an Open Ended Working Group to negotiate an international instrument to enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. They took note of the first meeting of the open ended working group held in New York on 14 – 25 June 2004 and expressed the hope that the Group would reach a consensus on an international instrument to enable states to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner illicit small arms and light weapons.
86. The Ministers continued to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorising innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and

forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. They again called upon the international community, particularly the members of international community in the position to do so, to provide the necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations as well as the rehabilitation of victims and their social and economic reintegration in the landmine affected countries. They further called for international assistance to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance. They also called for increased humanitarian assistance for victims of landmine.

87. The Ministers of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction invited those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention. They took note of the report of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention held in Bangkok, Thailand from 15 - 19 September 2003.
88. The Ministers expressed concern about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines; which have caused human and material damage, and obstructed development plans in some Non-Aligned Countries. In this regard, they called on the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support to affected countries, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.
89. The Ministers of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encouraged States to become parties to it. They also took note of the outcome of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the CCW held from 27 – 28 November 2003 in Geneva, which resulted in the adoption of an additional Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.
90. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialised, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and expressed their disappointment that consensus could not be reached on the agenda for the 2004 session of the UNDC and called upon delegations to display the necessary flexibility in order to achieve an early agreement on the agenda so as to allow for the 2005 session to take place.
91. The Ministers reiterated once again their support for the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV). They reiterated their deep concern over the lack of consensus on the deliberations held to consider the objectives and agenda of the SSOD-IV. They continued to call for further steps leading to the Convening of the SSOD-IV with the participation of all Member States of the United Nations to review and assess the implementation of SSOD-I, while reaffirming its principles and priorities. They emphasised the need to reconvene the open-ended working group with a view to building the consensus on the objectives and agenda

including the possibility of establishing the preparatory committee.

92. The Ministers stressed the importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and urged all States to devote resources made available there from to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty. They expressed their firm support for unilateral, bilateral and multilateral measures adopted by some governments aimed at reducing military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security. They recognised that confidence-building measures (CBMs) assist in this regard. They took note of the measures being examined by some governments such as the Andean Community of Nations.
93. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the consensus among states on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution 58/48 entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the United Nations framework and through international co-operation. While stressing that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, they emphasised that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They called upon all member states to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They also urged all member states to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. While noting the adoption of the resolution on weapons of mass destruction and non-states actors (S/RES/1540 (2004)) by the Security Council on 28 April 2004, the Ministers underlined the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international organisations established in this regard, as well as the role of the United Nations General Assembly. The Ministers further cautioned against a practice where the Security Council utilises its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions.
94. The Ministers commended the co-ordination carried out by the NAM Working Group on Disarmament and encouraged delegations to continue their active work on issues of common concern to the Movement, particularly towards ensuring respect for the principles of multilateralism and transparency in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Ministers also encouraged all NAM delegations at international disarmament meetings to actively participate in these meetings so as to promote and achieve the objectives of the NAM.

Indian Ocean

95. The Ministers reaffirmed the validity of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They also reaffirmed the importance of international co-operation to ensure peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region, and noted that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future of the Committee.

Terrorism

96. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's principled position concerning terrorism as reiterated in the final document of the XIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kuala Lumpur, 2003.
97. The Ministers reiterated that terrorism cannot be attributed to religion, race, nationality, or civilisation.
98. The Ministers reaffirmed that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes, wherever and by whomever committed are, in any circumstance, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them.
99. The Ministers rejected recent attempts to equate the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, for self-determination and national liberation with terrorism in order to prolong occupation and oppression of the innocent people with impunity.
100. The Ministers unequivocally condemned international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a criminal act. They noted that terrorism endangers the territorial integrity, as well as national and international security. Such acts also violate human rights, in particular the right to life, destroys the physical and economic infrastructure, and attempts to de-stabilise legitimately constituted governments. They expressed their resolve to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism including the need to address the underlying causes of terrorism and urged all States to fulfil their obligations under international law, including prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of such acts and preventing the organisation, instigation and the financing of terrorism against other States from within or outside their territories or by organizations based in their territories. They reaffirmed their support for General Assembly Resolution 46/51 of 27 January, 1992 which unequivocally condemned as criminal and unjustifiable all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed and called upon all States to fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law to refrain from facilitating, organising, instigating, assisting, participating or supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States, or acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territory towards the commissioning of such acts.
101. The Ministers further called on all States to endorse in principle the convening of an international Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism, to differentiate it from the struggle for national liberation and to reach comprehensive and effective measures for concerted action. They also denounced the brutalisation of peoples kept under foreign occupation as the gravest form of terrorism. They condemned the use of State power for the suppression and violence against innocent victims struggling against foreign occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. They stressed the sanctity of this right and urged that in this era of enlarged freedom and democracy, people under foreign occupation should be allowed to freely determine their destiny. In this context, they also reaffirmed their support for General Assembly Resolution 46/51 of 27 January 1992 as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions

and the principled position of the Movement that the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination do not constitute terrorism.

102. The Ministers, while recalling the Movement's principled position on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and in the light of the previous initiatives and considerations adopted by NAM, and of their conviction that multilateral co-operation under the United Nations auspices is the most effective means to combat international terrorism, reiterated their call for an International Summit Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organised response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including identifying its root causes. They further reiterated the need for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism and, in this respect, they noted the progress made in the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism established by Resolution 51/210 on the negotiations for elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and called upon all States to co-operate in resolving the outstanding issues.
103. The Ministers, pending the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, welcomed the initiative launched by Tunisia in order to elaborate by consensus an international Code of Conduct within the framework of the United Nations aimed at reinforcing co-ordination and multilateral efforts for the prevention of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed, in conformity with international law and the United Nations Charter.
104. The Ministers also reaffirmed the Movement's principled position under international law on the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination, which does not constitute terrorism and once again called for the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.
105. The Ministers urged all States to co-operate to enhance international co-operation in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and, wherever, by whoever, against whomsoever it occurs, at the national, regional and international levels, and to observe and implement the relevant international and bilateral instruments, taking into account the Final Document of the United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice held in Cairo in 1995.
106. The Ministers emphasised that international co-operation to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and relevant international conventions, and expressed the Movement's opposition to selective and unilateral actions in violation of principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. In this context, they called upon the competent United Nations Organs to promote ways and means to strengthen co-operation, including the international legal regime for combating international terrorism.
107. The Ministers reiterated that all States are under the obligation pursuant to the purposes and principles and other provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international instruments, codes of conduct and other rules of international law and Security Council and General Assembly resolutions to refrain from organising,

assisting or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States or acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts, including allowing the use of national territories and territories under their jurisdiction for planning and training or financing for that purpose. They solemnly reaffirmed the Movement's unequivocal condemnation of any political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism. In this context, they emphasised that States should ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators organisers or facilitators of terrorist acts and that claims of political motivation are not recognised as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists. They also encouraged all States to consider to accede to and implement existing international conventions against terrorism.

108. The Ministers rejected the use, or the threat of the use of the armed forces against any NAM country under the pretext of combating terrorism, and rejected all attempts by certain countries to use the issue of combating terrorism as a pretext to pursue their political aims against non-aligned and other developing countries and underscored the need to exercise solidarity with those affected. They affirmed the pivotal role of the United Nations in the international campaign against terrorism. They totally rejected the term "axis of evil" voiced by a certain State to target other countries under the pretext of combating terrorism, as well as its unilateral preparation of lists accusing countries of allegedly supporting terrorism, which are inconsistent with international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. These actions constitute, on their part, a form of psychological and political terrorism.
109. The Ministers welcomed regional efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including the adoption and entry into force of different regional conventions related to combating terrorism, in particular, the entry into force of the Convention of the Organisation of African Unity on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism on 6 December 2003, as well as the Plan of Action endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union at its Second Ordinary Session held in Maputo, Mozambique from 10-12 July 2003, the entry into force of the Arab Convention to Combat Terrorism on 7 May 1999 and the adoption of the Islamic Conference Convention (OIC) on Combating International Terrorism in Ouagadougou on 1 July 1999. They also noted the adoption of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Declaration at the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1 - 3 April 2002. They also welcomed, among others, the ASEAN Declarations on Terrorism adopted by the 7th and 8th ASEAN Summits in 2001 and 2002 respectively; the ASEAN Joint Declarations with the USA (1 August 2002), the EU (28 January 2003), India (8 October 2003) and Russia (2 July 2004) to Combat International Terrorism, and the ASEAN-China Joint Declaration on Co-operation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (4 November 2002). They further welcomed the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statements on Measures Against Terrorist Financing on 30 July 2002, on Cooperative Counter Terrorist Action on Border Security on 17 June 2003, on Co-operation Against Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security on 17 June 2003 and on Strengthening Transport Security Against International Terrorism on 2 July 2004. They also welcomed the Protocol on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism adopted at the Islamabad Summit in January 2004 and the outcome of the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Bali, Indonesia in February 2004.

International Law

110. The Ministers reaffirmed that many new areas of concern have emerged which warrant the renewal of commitment of the international community to uphold and defend the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law as well as a fuller utilisation and means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, as envisaged in the United Nations Charter. In this context, the Ministers committed themselves to conduct the external affairs of their countries based upon the obligations of international law.
111. The Ministers of NAM countries that are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) recalled the Declaration of the NAM Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the establishment of an International Criminal Court. They viewed the entry into force of the Rome Statute as a positive institutional development in the area of international criminal law, and took note of the election of the 18 Judges of the Court, the Prosecutor, a Deputy Prosecutor and the 5 Members of the Board of Trustees of the Victims Trust Fund. They took note as well of the referral of two situations to the Court by two States Parties and of the need for NAM members which are States Parties to the Rome Statute to cooperate with the Court in any request for assistance in the conduct of its investigations. They stressed in addition, the importance of safeguarding the integrity of the Statute and the need to ensure that the Court remains impartial and fully independent of political organs of the United Nations. They observed with concern actions aimed at establishing a process to grant immunity from investigation or prosecution by the ICC to nationals of States which are not Parties to the Rome Statute participating in UN-established or authorized operations. In this regard, they welcomed recent developments in the Security Council as a result of which such immunity was not further extended and noted in this respect that the adoption of Security Council Resolutions 1422 (2002) and 1487 (2003) was not consistent with the Rome Statute, had threatened to undermine the credibility and independence of the ICC and, as such, had posed a serious threat to international treaty law.
112. The Ministers noted with great interest the establishment of a special working group by the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC on the crime of aggression, open on an equal footing to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialised agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for the purpose of elaborating proposals for a provision on aggression. The Ministers urged the active and consistent participation of the members of NAM in the work of the special working group and they called on all States to work together to ensure the timely completion of a provision on the crime of aggression for its inclusion in the Statute, which would be acceptable, especially to members of the Non-Aligned Movement.
113. The Ministers stressed the Movement's deep concern over the intention of a group of States to unilaterally re-interpret the existing legal instruments in accordance with their own views and interests. The Movement again emphasised that the integrity of international legal instruments by States Parties must be maintained. They further reiterated the Movement's deep concern at the decrease of the representation of Non-Aligned countries in several treaty bodies and called upon the members of the Movement that are parties to these bodies to work collectively with a view to increasing and enhancing its representation, particularly by supporting the candidatures of experts from the Non-Aligned Countries.

114. The Ministers expressed concern at the unilateral exercise of extra-territorial criminal and civil jurisdiction of national courts not emanating from international treaties and other obligations arising from international law including international humanitarian law. In this regard, they condemned the enactment of politically motivated laws at national level, they stressed the negative impact of such measures on the rule of international law as well as on international relations, and called for the cessation of all such measures.
115. The Ministers emphasised the need for a renewal of commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in the United Nations Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this regard, they encouraged the Security Council to make greater use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as a source of advisory opinions, and interpretation of relevant norms of international law. The Ministers reaffirmed that further progress is necessary to achieve full respect for international law and the International Court of Justice and, inter alia, for promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes and combating crimes against humanity as well as other international offences. The Charter refers to the International Court of Justice as the Organisation's principal judicial organ. The Security Council should make greater use of the World Court as a source of advisory opinions, and in controversial instances, use the World Court as a source of interpreting relevant international law and consider decisions to review by the World Court.
116. The Ministers remained firmly opposed to evaluations, certifications and other coercive unilateral measures as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries for such measures are not only contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, and the United Nations Charter but also to the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States and thus are to be further decried by the international community. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's rejection of the increasing trend in this direction that threaten the sovereignty of States and call on States applying unilateral coercive measures to put an immediate end to those measures.
117. The Ministers condemned the continued unilateral application, by certain powers, of coercive economic and other measures, including the enactment of extra-territorial laws, against a number of developing countries, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems. The Movement called on all countries not to recognise the unilateral extra-territorial laws enacted by certain countries, which impose sanctions on other States and foreign companies and individuals. They reaffirmed that such legislation contradicts the norms of international law and run counter to the principles and purposes of the United Nations, as well as the basis of the "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations" adopted on 24 October 1970 by the General Assembly. They further expressed their regret at the continued enforcement of these laws, in total disregard for the calls of the Movement, the General Assembly and other International Organisations. The Ministers rejected all attempts to introduce new concepts of international law geared at internationalising the essential elements contained in extra-territorial laws through multilateral agreements.
118. The Ministers called on all States to refrain from adopting or implementing extra-

territorial or unilateral measures of coercion as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned and other developing countries. They noted that measures such as Helms-Burton Law, D'Amato-Kennedy Acts and other laws related to other issues, constitute flagrant violations of international law, the established principles of the multilateral trading system and the Charter of the United Nations, and called on the international community to take effective action in order to arrest this trend.

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

119. The Ministers re-affirmed the need for a renewal of the commitment by the international community to the principles of the non-use or threat of use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes by the means as envisaged in the United Nations Charter. In this context, the role of the Movement in promoting a just international order would largely depend on its inner strength, cohesion, solidarity and unity. It is therefore incumbent on all Member States to work earnestly towards that end.
120. Recalling the decisions of the Cartagena Summit to mandate the Co-ordinating Bureau to study further the question of mechanism for peaceful settlement of disputes between the Member Countries, the Ministers urged the Bureau to undertake the study as soon as possible in a transparent manner.

Culture of Peace

121. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's support for the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 1999. They called upon States, Governments, organisations and peoples to promote a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States; non-interference in internal affairs of States; the right to self-determination; prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence; strict adherence to the principles of international relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and full realisation of the right to development. They further called for the promotion of democracy, justice, tolerance, economic and social development, human rights, gender mainstreaming and the free flow of information and correcting imbalance of such flows to and from developing countries as well as the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and foreign occupation.
122. The Ministers expressed concern that religious and cultural prejudices, misunderstanding, intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religions or beliefs or different systems of belief undermine the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms while hindering the promotion of the culture of peace. They affirmed that pluralism, tolerance, and understanding of religious and cultural diversity are essential for peace and harmony. They recognised that acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial, religious and sectarian profiling are affronts to human dignity and equality, and should not be condoned. Respect for democracy and human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by governments as well as between and among minorities, are central to the promotion and protection of human rights. They affirmed that States are under obligation to ensure the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination and full equality before the law and that this would contribute to the culture of peace.

123. The Ministers emphasised that tolerance of religious and cultural diversity and pluralism are essential for peace and understanding among individuals and peoples of different culture and nations in the world. They urged that States should exert utmost efforts, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with commitments made by them under international human rights instruments, to ensure that all religious places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected and that the safety and security of all worshippers are ensured. States are urged to ensure that religious and cultural diversity is fully respected in their national, political and legal system and that state machinery is not used to propagate religious or cultural hatred. They affirmed their rejection of terrorism and reiterated that it cannot be justified on religious or any other grounds. It should be ensured that religious and other identities are not used for the promotion and incitement of terrorism. Terrorism cannot be attributed to any particular religion, nationality or civilisation. They noted the efforts of the United Nations to promote a culture of peace.

CHAPTER II: ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Palestine

124. The Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to the positions on Palestine adopted by the XIII NAM Summit, detailed in its main document, as the guidelines for the Members of the Movement as well as their adherence to the positions set forth in the Summit statement on Palestine.
125. The Ministers reiterated their grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000, as a result of the destruction and devastation inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian society and the Palestinian Authority. They strongly condemned the continuing Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people, including the systematic human rights violations and the reported war crimes. They condemned in particular the wilful killing of Palestinian civilians, including extrajudicial killings; the excessive and indiscriminate use of force; the wanton destruction of homes, infrastructure and agricultural lands; the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; and the imposition of collective punishment on the entire Palestinian population, including severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, resulting in the grave socio-economic debilitation of the Palestinian people.
126. The Ministers also strongly condemned Israel's ongoing intensive campaign of settler colonialism, including the continuing illegal land confiscations and the construction and expansion of illegal settlements, as well as its continuing unlawful construction of the expansionist Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Ministers expressed their grave concern at the devastation being caused by the construction of the Wall and stressed that, if completed, the Wall would render the two-State solution practically impossible to achieve. In this connection, the Ministers strongly welcomed the Advisory Opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", which represents an historic opportunity for return to the rule of law in all efforts to peacefully address the question of Palestine and resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Ministers further welcomed the adoption of resolution ES-10/15, on 20 July 2004, by the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, and stressed the importance of respect for and compliance with both the Advisory Opinion and resolution ES-10/15 by Israel, the Occupying Power, and by Member States.
127. The Ministers expressed their concern at the failure of repeated efforts to revive the peace process and expressed their deep regret in particular that the Road Map had yet to be implemented. They noted with concern that the Israeli government has never formally accepted the Road Map, has failed to take the necessary first step in adherence with its obligations therein, and has repeatedly attempted to evade the Road Map and substitute it with different steps. In this regard, they noted that the situation has been aggravated by the Israeli Prime Minister's "unilateral disengagement plan" as well as the Israeli-American exchange of letters of 14 April 2004. The Ministers reaffirmed that the plan as well as several passages within the letters violate international law, relevant Security

Council resolutions, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees, and are in departure from the Road Map. The Ministers reaffirmed that the plan and the letters are unacceptable and cannot alter the terms of reference of the peace process nor alter the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Ministers called for the intensification of efforts by the Quartet and for the full and honest implementation of the Road Map. The Ministers further called on the Quartet to engage the Security Council, considering the Council's Charter authority and its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security.

128. The Ministers expressed the necessity of upholding international law, international humanitarian law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and Security Council, towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects on the basis of international law. They called upon the United Nations not to reward illegal positions and intransigence and to increase its efforts towards the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement and the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They urged Member States to instruct their representatives to continuously follow up with such issues related to the United Nations and called for the continued support of the Committees and UN bodies relevant to the question of Palestine. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and to sovereignty in their State, Palestine, with East Jerusalem, as its capital. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 58/292 on the "Status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", and stressed the need for follow-up in ensuring that Israeli credentials to the United Nations do not cover the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

Syrian Golan

129. The Ministers reaffirmed that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. They also reaffirmed that all such measures and actions, including the illegality of Israeli settlement construction activities in the Occupied Syrian Golan since 1967 constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international conventions, the Charter and decisions of the United Nations, particularly Security Council resolution 497 (1981), the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and the defiance of will of the international community. They reiterated the Movement's demand that Israel comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan, to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and that Israel adheres to the Madrid terms of reference based on the principle of land for peace, which are in their entirety considered to be a primary and basic element in the negotiation process that should be adhered to, including the immediate commencement of the demarcation of the 4 June 1967 line.
130. The Ministers reaffirmed the NAM's unwavering support and solidarity with the Syrian

just demand and rights to restore the full Syrian sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan on the basis of the terms of reference of the Arab peace initiative, the Madrid peace process, the UN Security Council resolutions, as well as the principle of land for peace. They again demanded that Israel respects all commitments and pledges it entered into with the aim of laying down the basis for a substantive progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Lebanon

131. The Ministers reaffirmed Lebanon's legitimate right to defend its territories and to liberate the remaining parts under Israeli occupation and demanded that Israel puts an end to its continuous: threats, aggression and violations of the Lebanese territories, air space and territorial waters. They reiterated their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and its right on its natural resources and for Lebanon's demand to maintain the peacekeeping mission deployed in Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) without any further reduction in the number of its troops and without any change in the nature of its mandate in accordance with Resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). They encouraged and supported all international efforts aimed at expediting the removal of landmines planted by Israel during its occupation of Southern Lebanon, and called for an end to the continuing Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and for the release of all Lebanese detained in Israel, in defiance of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its relevant protocols.

The Peace Process

132. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Middle East peace process based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397 and 1515 and the principle of land for peace. They reiterated the need for ending the Israeli occupation of all occupied territories since 1967 and the establishment of the State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. The Ministers welcomed and supported the Arab peace initiative adopted by the 14th Arab Summit in Beirut. They urged the Security Council to act upon that initiative towards achieving just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

AFRICA

133. The Ministers reiterated their continued support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and welcomed the decision of the African Union (AU) at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Maputo from 10 to 12 July 2003, and the 3rd Summit of the AU in Addis Ababa from 6 – 8 July 2004, which mandated the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures and processes. They invited the international community to honour and renew their strong support, as reflected in the adoption of General Assembly Resolutions 57/2 and 57/7 of 16 September 2002 and 4 November 2002 respectively. The Ministers welcomed the briefing by the President of South Africa and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki on NEPAD during the 8th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 5 November 2002, which launched the strategic partnership for development between ASEAN and Africa.
134. The Ministers welcomed the transition from the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union and took note of the holding of the First Summit of the African Union held

in Durban, South Africa from 28 June – 10 July 2002 and the First Emergency Summit held from 3 – 5 February 2003 at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They further noted that the African Union was borne out of a common vision for a united and strong Africa that would enable the African continent to take up the multifaceted challenges that confront the continent and its peoples in the light of the social, economic and political changes taking place in the world. In view of these challenges, they noted that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), for being an initiative led and managed by the African Union, is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of under development and exclusion in a globalised world. They further expressed a view that the Union in co-operation with the other grouping will help in addressing the challenges of the 21st century including the search for peace, prosperity and security the world over.

135. The Ministers welcomed the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa established by the General Assembly Resolution 53/92. They welcomed the active participation of African countries and other Members in the deliberations of the Working Group and recommended that all its proposals be fully implemented. In this regard, they welcomed the establishment of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict on 15 July 2002. They also welcomed the establishment and presentation of the first report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea Bissau.
136. The Ministers also reaffirmed the existence of an intrinsic link between peace and development, which requires an integrated approach to conflict prevention, resolution and management. In this regard, they commended the efforts undertaken by African countries towards the resolution of incipient and persistent conflicts in the continent and call on the United Nations and the international community to support these efforts as well as social and economic development.
137. The Ministers welcomed the increased attention the Security Council is showing towards African issues and problems, and in particular, they supported the contents of the Communiqué issued by the President of the Security Council on 31 January 2002, as contained in Document S/PRST/2002/2, whereby an Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa has been established by the Security Council with the specific task to prevent the eruption of conflict in Africa and their resolution, in co-ordination with the Organisation of African Unity, the sub-regional organisations and the central organ of the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution in the continent. They urged the Council to support their efforts politically, financially, and with manpower, similar to what is provided to peacekeeping missions in other regions.
138. The Ministers reiterated the need to meet the special needs of Africa as recognised in the Millennium Declaration, the Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, adopted on 18 July 2001, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development adopted on 22 March 2002 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted on 4 September 2002.

Great Lakes Region

139. The Ministers welcomed the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in November 2004 to establish a comprehensive regional framework for peace and security, democracy, governance, economic development, regional integration, humanitarian and social issues.
140. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and other relevant agreements to ensure that security concerns of countries in the Great Lakes region are addressed. They called upon the international community to disarm and demobilize genocidal forces and other negative forces as stipulated in Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and other relevant agreements.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

141. The Ministers reiterated their support for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of 10 July 1999 as a negotiated framework for arriving at a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as their support for all the subsequent agreements aiming to promote peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.
142. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Transitional Government in June 2003 and urged all Congolese parties to remain fully committed to the peace process of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement of 01 April 2003, to abstain from any action that could endanger the unity of the transitional Government and to respect the Government of National Unity and Transition, as the sole legitimate governing authority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They called upon all the parties to refrain from resumption of hostilities, and to respect the aspirations of the entire Congolese people for peace, stability and national reconciliation.
143. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to, and respect for the national sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In that regard, they urged all neighbouring countries not to interfere in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, neither disrupt the peace and transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including through military support for armed groups.
144. The Ministers called on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to respond without delay to the Secretary-General of the United Nations efforts to establish, as soon as possible, a joint verification mechanism for their common security, including verification of cross-border movements.
145. The Ministers welcomed the initiatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union aimed at facilitating the successful conclusion of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Burundi

146. The Ministers reaffirmed that the ARUSHA peace and reconciliation Agreement signed on August 28, 2000 under the auspices of former President Nelson Mandela whom they commended for his tremendous contribution remains the basic reference of the Burundi peace process. They noted with appreciation the role played by the mediation led by

President Omar Bongo and Vice President Jacob Zuma, the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, the Government of South Africa, the United Nations and the African Union.

147. The Ministers welcomed the encouraging development in the peace process and encouraged the government and all the Burundi parties to fully implement the provision of the Peace Agreement and the Ceasefire Accords, and to resolve the outstanding issues related to the organization of elections as stipulated in the communiqué of the 22nd Summit of the Great Lakes Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi.
148. The Ministers condemned in the strongest terms the horrible massacre of the Congolese refugees of GATUMBA camp in Burundi which occurred on 13 August 2004 and for which PALIPEHUTU-FNL claimed responsibility. They fully endorsed the actions proposed against that movement by the 22nd Regional Summit including the resolution to declare PALIPEHUTU-FNL terrorist organization and called the international community to support this decision.
149. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the resolution 1545 by the UN Security Council which allowed the deployment of the Operation of United Nations in Burundi (ONUB) from June 1st 2004, and encouraged the latter to use its mandate to help Burundians to reach the lasting peace and the national reconciliation. The ministers strongly commended the work done by the African Mission to Burundi (AMIB) before the ONUB took over.
150. The Ministers appealed to the donors to support the peace process in BURUNDI by releasing the assistance promised during the Forum of Brussels on 13 January 2004, in order to meet the humanitarian needs and to help the economic reconstruction of the country.

Côte d'Ivoire

151. The Ministers expressed their support for the efforts undertaken for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire. They welcomed the Linas Marcoussis Accord signed on 14 January, 2003 endorsed by the Security Council Resolution 1464(2003) and called on the interested parties to work together in the strict implementation of this Accord. They also welcomed the signature on 30 July 2004 of the Accra III Agreement on Cote d'Ivoire by which, amongst others, the Ivorian political parties confirmed their total adherence to the Linas Marcoussis Accord and the Accra II Agreement.
152. The Ministers appealed to all Ivorians to engage into a true national reconciliation process so as to maintain the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country as a strong and prosperous country. To this end, they invited them to work in a spirit of forgiveness, tolerance and solidarity.
153. The Ministers further welcomed the efforts being made by the Heads of State of the sub-region, other regions of Africa and ECOWAS, with the assistance of the UN Secretary General and the international community to ensure the restoration of peace and security in Cote d'Ivoire.

Somalia

154. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, reaffirming their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of the country, consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
155. The Ministers reaffirmed their full support for the IGAD led Somali National Reconciliation Conference in Kenya and commended IGAD leader and in particular the Government of Kenya for their efforts in the search for peace in Somalia. The Ministers also commended the International Observers for their active engagement in the process.
156. The Ministers welcomed the Roadmap launched by the Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs on April 22, 2004, the outcome of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eight IGAD Ministerial Facilitation Committee Meetings on the Somali National Reconciliation Conference, which demonstrated a coherent regional approach of IGAD member states on the question of national reconciliation in Somalia. In this respect, the Ministers urged the IGAD Ministerial Facilitation Committee to further enhance their renewed cohesiveness in solving the Somalia problem.
157. The Ministers welcomed the launching of the Phase III of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference, and urged all parties to continue in their engagement to move Phase III of the Process forward and swiftly conclude the Conference with a durable and inclusive solution to the conflict in Somalia by establishing a viable transitional government.
158. The Ministers condemned the repeated violations and reiterated that the Somali parties should abide by and implement expeditiously the Eldoret Declaration of 27 October 2002 on the Cessation of Hostilities (S/2002/1359), and called on the Somali parties to continue working towards a comprehensive security arrangements for Somalia. In this regard, the Ministers underlined that the perpetrators involved with the sabotage of the conference would be held accountable.
159. The Ministers supported the determination of the African Union to mobilize the International Community for targeted sanctions to be applied to all those faction leaders to be found undermining the peace process or its outcome.
160. The Ministers welcomed the decision by the African Union to speed up preparations for the deployment, in Somalia, of an AU Military Observer Mission, that will support the DDR process, monitor the cessation of hostilities and carry out other related activities.
161. The Ministers called on donor countries and organizations to continue to contribute to the Somali National Reconciliation Conference in support of IGAD, the United Nations Fund for Peace-building in Somalia and the United Nations Consolidated Interagency Appeal for Somalia.
162. The Ministers reiterated their serious concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Somalia, and called on Somali leader to facilitate the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance and to assure the safety of all international and national aid workers.

163. The Ministers reiterated their concern over the continued flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to Somalia, commended the work of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to resolution 1519 (2003) of 16 December 2003, and called on relevant states and entities to comply scrupulously with the arms embargo and to cooperate with the Monitoring Group.
164. The Ministers called upon the International Community to recognize and support fully the new Government that will result from the peace conference.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

165. The Ministers welcomed Security Council Resolution 1506 (2003) of 12 September 2003, by which the sanctions imposed on Libya was permanently lifted and commend the constructive efforts that Libya undertook in order to reach this positive result. They reiterated their demand for the lifting of all unilateral sanctions imposed against Libya as a means of political coercion in contravention of UN resolutions, in particular the GA Resolution 57/5 of 16 October 2002 and acknowledge Libya's right for compensation for human and material damages caused by these sanctions.

Angola

166. The Ministers welcomed with satisfaction the continuing peace and process of reconciliation in Angola, which adds to the stability and development of the Southern and Central African regions as well as the African continent as a whole. They further encouraged the people of Angola to participate fully in the existing democratic structures in view of the impending elections.
167. The Ministers urged the international community, particularly the international financial institutions, to lend their much-needed support to mitigate the current humanitarian situation, to assist with the post-war reconstruction and to accelerate the economic recovery of Angola, and expressed their support to the holding of an International Round-Table Conference with the objective of mobilising funds.

Western Sahara

168. The Ministers reiterated the support of the Movement for the efforts of the United Nations to organise and supervise an impartial, free and fair referendum in accordance with the Settlement Plan, the Houston Agreements and with relevant Security Council and United Nations resolutions.
169. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties.
170. The Ministers reaffirmed also their strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in order to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute over Western Sahara.
171. The Ministers called upon all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully

with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy.

Chagos Archipelago

172. The Ministers reaffirmed that Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, is an integral part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Mauritius. In this regard, they again called on the former colonial power to pursue constructive dialogue expeditiously with Mauritius for the early return of Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sudan

173. The Ministers welcomed the signing on 22 July 2002 of the Machakos Protocol and also welcomed the further signing of the Six Protocols between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/ Army (SPLM/A), which represent a huge leap towards the realisation of a just and lasting peace in the Sudan. In this connection, they paid tribute to the ongoing efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), led by the Government of Kenya, as well as the IGAD partners and appealed to the parties to continue to work for the successful conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement.
174. Encouraged by those positive developments, the Ministers urged the International Community to support efforts aimed at achieving peace in Sudan. In this regard, they further urged the International Community to provide assistance to meet the economic and developments needs, including reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by the conflict.
175. The Ministers expressed concern about the situation on Darfur Region in Sudan. In this regard they supported the Decision of the Summit of the Heads of State of the African Union on Darfur in July 2004 and the deployment of AU monitors in the region, and called upon the international community to support the AU initiative on conducting a political peaceful settlement of the problem.
176. The Ministers welcomed the signing of N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on Darfur. In this connection, they urged the parties of N'Djamena Agreement to resume immediately and without conditions the talks under the auspices of the African Union in view of concluding a political settlement of the crisis.
177. The Ministers also welcomed the Joint Communiqué' between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Secretary General of the United Nations on 3 July 2004. They noted the progress of the humanitarian as well as the security situation in the region, and noted the importance of the Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) in the agreement as an important method for evaluating the situation; they urged the international community and the donors to provide assistance to the people in the region.

ASIA

Syria

178. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the imposing of unilateral sanctions against Syria by the United States Government and consider the so-called “Syria Accountability Act”, contrary to the international law and a violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and call upon the United States Government to null and void that act, and to resort to dialogue between the two countries based on respect and mutual interest for the best of the two nations and their peoples.

Situation between Iraq and Kuwait

179. The Ministers strongly condemned the grave violation of human rights and the killing of Kuwaiti and other third country nationals by the former Iraqi government, in disregard of the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law. They called for measures or actions to be taken to bring to justice those in the former Iraqi government responsible for committing such crimes.

Iraq

180. The Ministers welcomed the announcement of the new Iraqi Interim Government and the appointment of the President of Iraq as a step forward in the direction of the establishment of a fully sovereign, democratic, and viable Iraq, as well as defining the further political process leading to safeguarding the national interests of Iraq without any external interference. They welcomed the announcement by the Interim Government to prepare for free, fair, inclusive and transparent elections in accordance with the timetable guaranteeing the completion of the political process and the establishment of a free, democratic and sovereign State of Iraq. They also supported the efforts of the Iraqi Interim Government to exercise control over the national resources of Iraq for the purpose of improving the living standards of its people and the re-establishment of the state enterprises and the national economy. They further welcomed the Interim Government’s efforts to fully control the Iraqi borders to ensure stability and security of the country.
181. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1483 (2003) and 1546 (2004), which called for the restoration of the sovereignty of Iraq and the establishment of a sovereign Iraqi Government. They also welcomed the United Nation’s role in supporting the people and the Interim Government of Iraq in their efforts to establish stability, security and democracy in Iraq.
182. The Ministers condemned the inhuman practices and abuses committed against the Iraqi detainees at Abu-Gharaib prison and demanded that those responsible be tried by appropriate judicial processes, that conform to international standards in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. They also underlined the necessity for all parties, including the Multinational Force, to respect the civil and religious rights of the Iraqi people, as well as the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of Iraq.
183. The Ministers condemned the terrorist attacks against the people of Iraq and targeting of

places of worship, holy sites, police stations, government offices, hospitals, health centres, other public facilities, diplomats and diplomatic premises; kidnappings and assassinations of Iraqi religious figures, professionals and eminent personalities and hostage takings and executions of foreign workers.

184. The Ministers condemned the genocide of innocent Iraqis committed by the former regime and considered this as a crime against humanity. They demanded the trial of those responsible and called upon Member States and the international community not to provide refuge to convicted officials of the former regime, who have committed such crimes against Iraqis and others.
185. The Ministers welcomed the announcement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its Neighbouring States, based on mutual respect and principle of non- interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and agreements, particularly those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invited Iraq and its Neighbouring Countries to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region and prevent illegal border crossing , in line with the statements issued in the meetings of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq.
186. The Ministers called upon all countries and specialized International Organizations to make collective international efforts to stop the illegal trade and smuggling of cultural artefacts of Iraqi archaeological heritage, and stressed the importance of returning all stolen pieces, wherever found.
187. The Ministers pledged the full support of the Member States for the Iraqi people in their endeavour to rebuild their country and urged the international community to provide urgent assistance needed in this regard. They appealed to all States and International Financial Institutions to contribute to the alleviation of the financial burden on Iraq by writing off or reducing Iraqi debts.

Korean Peninsula

188. The Ministers expressed their concern over the fact that the Korean Peninsula still remains divided in spite of desires and aspirations of the Korean people for reunification and reaffirmed their support to the Korean people to reunify their homeland through dialogue and negotiations based on the three principles set forth in the North-South Joint Statement on 4 July 1972 and Agreement concluded in February 1992.
189. The Ministers noted the importance of guaranteeing a durable peace and security in the Korean Peninsula for the sake of the common prosperity of the Korean people as well as the peace and security of Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. They in particular, expressed their hope that the Korean peninsula would be reunified through the genuine aspirations and concerted efforts of the Korean peoples themselves in a way as is stated in the North South Joint Declaration issued at the historic North-South Summit talks held in Pyongyang on 15 June 2000.
190. The Ministers expressed serious concern over the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula. They expressed hope that these issues be resolved peacefully, including through dialogue and negotiations. They called upon all parties concerned to do everything possible to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully. They also recognised the

contribution of the ASEAN Standing Committee and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as well as their chairs towards a peaceful settlement of these issues.

Afghanistan

191. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan. They welcomed the Bonn Agreement signed 5 December 2001, as an important step in the commencement of political activity in Afghanistan. They also welcomed the successful convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, held from 11 – 19 June 2002, the election of President Karzai as the Head of State, by a secret ballot, the adoption of the new Constitution by Afghanistan's Constitutional Grand Assembly on 4 January 2004 and the establishment of the Transitional Authority, and expressing its full support for President Karzai and the Transitional Authority.
192. The Ministers recognised that the challenges faced by the Afghanistan Transitional Authority and by the Afghan people are enormous. They expressed the Movement's resolve to contribute to Afghanistan's reconstruction and rehabilitation. They noted with satisfaction that individual Member Countries of the Movement had already taken several concrete measures to assist Afghanistan with humanitarian relief and rebuilding activity.
193. The Ministers took note of the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan in Tokyo on 21 - 22 January 2002, the Berlin Conference on Afghanistan, held on 31 March and 1 April 2004, co-chaired by the United Nations, Afghanistan, Germany and Japan and thereby the strong commitment by the international donor community, including Member States of the NAM, for reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan.
194. The Ministers expressed their deep concern that the terrorist groups, including former Taliban cadres, were regrouping in the Southern and Eastern parts of Afghanistan. Equally of concern was that the efforts of the international community to fight terrorism were being undermined by support, protection and shelter that these forces of destabilisation continued to receive
195. The Ministers believed that the establishment of peace and security was essential for the reconstruction efforts to be successful in Afghanistan. They also expressed hope that the holding of presidential elections on 9 October 2004 and parliamentary election in April 2005 for which many countries have extended co-operation, will pave the way towards the restoration of full democracy in Afghanistan. They stressed that the efforts of the international community on Afghanistan should be co-ordinated through inclusive and co-operative forums, rather than through competitive and exclusive groupings.
196. The Ministers welcomed the Kabul Declaration on Good Neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002, in which a commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relationships based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, co-operation and non-interference in each other's internal affairs have been reaffirmed.

Southeast Asia

197. The Ministers recognized the important role of the Association of South-east Asian

Nations (ASEAN) in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region and in enhancing co-operation in the wider Asia-Pacific region. They also recognized the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in promoting political and security dialogue and mutual confidence among its participants. They welcomed the progress of ASEAN continuing efforts to realize the objective of establishing a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia (ZOPFAN) and to implement the Southeast-Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ). In this regard, they encouraged all Nuclear-Weapon States to accede to the SEANWFZ Protocol. The Ministers welcomed the continuing commitment made by the Leaders of ASEAN and China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea as well as other ASEAN Dialogue Partners to enhance co-operation and collaboration, thereby further contributing to the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world over. The Ministers welcomed the recent accession of China, India, Japan and Pakistan to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and encouraged other ASEAN Dialogue Partners and non-Southeast Asian countries to accede to the Treaty.

198. They welcomed the signing of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) at the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia in 2003, which decided to establish an ASEAN Community comprising the three pillars, namely political and security co-operation, economic co-operation and socio-cultural co-operation in line with the ASEAN Vision 2020, as a Community of Southeast Asian Nations, bonded together in partnership, in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies. The ASEAN community would be achieved through the framework of the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. In this regard, the Ministers commended the substantial progress made since the adoption of the ASEAN Concord II in the formulation and finalization of plans of action of those three pillars as the basis in ASEAN's strive towards full integration.
199. The Ministers reiterated the call to solve all sovereignty and territorial disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or threat to use force, and urged all parties to exercise restraint with a view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all contentious issues. In this context, they reaffirmed their support for the principles contained in the 1992 ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea as well as 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and stressed the need for the full implementation of such principles by all concerned. They also expressed the hope that all parties concerned would refrain from any actions that may undermine peace, stability, trust and confidence in the region. They reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law. To this end, they welcomed the efforts by ASEAN and China to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea which was signed on November 4, 2002 during the ASEAN-China Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia as an important step to achieve a code of conduct in the South China Sea, which would help to create a conducive environment for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. They also welcomed the positive contribution of the on-going bilateral and multilateral consultations among the parties concerned at the intergovernmental level, the extensive consultations at the ASEAN-China Dialogue, the regular exchange of views in the ARF, and the informal Workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea and encouraged their continuance.

Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean

200. On developments in the Mediterranean region, the Ministers reiterated the Movement's determination to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations in the promotion of comprehensive and equitable co-operation in the region towards resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region, in the elimination of the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, respect for self determination, elimination of foreign occupation, foreign bases and fleets, non-interference in the internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty of states as prerequisites for the establishment of peace and stability in the Mediterranean region. In this regard, they welcomed the various conferences held as part of the Barcelona process in order to provide a strong stimulus to relations in the Euro Mediterranean region and to give this process a comprehensive, balanced and multidimensional approach based on the necessary balance between the three parts of Barcelona Declaration. They considered that the Euro – Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) constitutes a comprehensive approach combining political, economic, social and cultural dialogue and co-operation between both shores. They reiterated the importance of dialogue and co-operation to ensure peace, stability, security and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean region.
201. They welcomed the consultations within the (5+5) framework and stressed the importance of their continuation with the aim of contributing to finding solutions to common concerns, including economic and technological inequalities between the countries in the region. In this regard, they welcomed the final declaration of the Summit 5 + 5 held in Tunisia on 5-6 December 2003 in which Heads of State and Government of Western Mediterranean countries resolved to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and to enhance co-operation and partnership.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

South American Zone of Peace and Co-operation

202. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the decision of the Presidents of South America, adopted at their second meeting, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 27 July 2002, to declare South America as a Zone of Peace and Co-operation, as well as its recognition by the General Assembly through Resolution 57/13 that the establishment of this Zone of Peace and Co-operation will help to strengthen international peace and security and promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations.
203. The Ministers welcomed the efforts of the people and the Government of Bolivia in strengthening its Democracy and strongly committing their support for the social, economic and political development of that country.

Cuba

204. The Ministers again called upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighbourliness, causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The Ministers once again urged strict compliance with the Resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11 and

58/7 of the United Nations General Assembly. They expressed deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and over continuous new legislative measure geared to intensifying it. The Ministers also urged the United States Government to return the territory now occupied by the Guantánamo Naval Base to Cuban sovereignty, and to put an end to aggressive radio and TV transmission against Cuba. They also expressed concern and rejected the new measures recently approved by the US government, aimed at tightening the embargo. Those measures constitute a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and a massive violation of the human rights of its people.

Venezuela

205. The Ministers expressed their support for the Constitutional Government of Hugo Chavez Frias, who was democratically elected by the majority of the Venezuelan people. They also found, at the time, that it was necessary to find a solution to the Venezuelan situation in a peaceful, just, and institutional way, within the framework of the Constitution. They also recognised international initiatives in the search for a solution. In this sense, the Ministers expressed satisfaction that in Presidential Revocatory Referendum, held on August 15th, President Hugo Chavez Frias was ratified by the Venezuelan people in his constitutional mandate with a significant majority of votes. The Ministers appreciate that this contributes toward the stabilization of the country and of its institutions; it allows for the continuation of a constructive dialogue with the democratic opposition and confirms the consolidation of direct and participatory democracy enshrined in the Constitution of 1999.

Guyana and Venezuela

206. The Ministers in expressing their satisfaction at the existing cordial relations between Guyana and Venezuela noted that the commitment to strengthen the bonds of friendship and co-operation which was made by the Heads of State of both countries during the State Visit by President Hugo Chavez to Guyana in February 2004, augured well for the development of relations between the two countries.
207. The Ministers commended the Parties for their ongoing commitment to the peaceful and practical settlement of the controversy under the aegis of the United Nations Good Offices Process and expressed their support for the Parties in the continuation of this process.

Belize and Guatemala

208. Mindful of the fundamental principles of the Movement, which uphold respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the Ministers recall that the Movement has closely followed the developments in the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute.
209. The Ministers recalled that on 16 September 2002, a Facilitation Process agreed to by the Parties resulted in the presentation of Proposals for a definitive, just and honourable solution to the dispute, and that on 7 February 2003 the Parties signed an Agreement to Establish a Transition Process and Confidence Building Measures aimed at maintaining peace and neighbourly relations between the two countries until the said Proposals were approved by referenda in both countries and Treaties of Settlement putting an end to the

dispute were ratified.

210. The Ministers noted that Guatemala has since stated, in its letters of August 25th, 2003 and February 24, 2004 that it was not in a position to accept said Proposals or put them to referendum, although it expressed a willingness to continue negotiations within the OAS framework to find a just, equitable and permanent solution to the territorial dispute.
211. The Ministers noted that the Parties have agreed to hold a meeting at Ministerial level in the near future to agree on a new mechanism for resolving the territorial claim definitively and quickly, and to agree on new and expanded confidence building measures to improve relations.
212. The Ministers commended the Parties on this initiative and urge the international community to provide every assistance that will make the proposed mechanism effective.

Colombia

213. The Ministers stressed their full support for the actions of the Colombian government aimed at restoring the security, tranquillity and welfare of the Colombian people within the framework of the rule of law and the effective exercise of human rights and international humanitarian law. They also expressed their support to the Colombian government in its quest for negotiated peaceful solutions to overcome internal security concerns. They reiterated their condemnation of terrorist acts perpetrated by illegal armed groups in Colombia, which have claimed numerous lives and injured numerous civilians, and stressed that such acts, like any act of terrorism, are a threat to peace and security. They reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to peace and security caused by terrorists acts, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions including Resolution 1373(2001) to work together and co-operate with and provide support and assistance as appropriate, to the Colombian authorities in their efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of this terrorists attacks.

CHAPTER III: ECONOMIC ISSUES

Globalisation and Interdependence

214. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the increasing disparities between developed and developing countries and the growing marginalisation of developing countries, in particular, the LDCs, from the benefits of globalisation. They called for concrete measures to ensure that developing countries participate in and benefit from globalisation, especially through their full and effective participation in the international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes, in particular, in the international financial and trade institutions.
215. The Ministers believed that the central focus of international development efforts should be on the creation of an enabling international economic environment, which is critical for developing countries to acquire the requisite capacities to successfully compete and fully benefit from globalisation. The Ministers recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration which commits all Members States at the highest level to make globalisation a positive force for all the world's people and seeks to ensure that the benefits of globalisation are shared equitably by all, as a central challenge for the international community.
216. The Ministers emphasized the need for better understanding by the developed countries of the importance of international actions aimed at addressing the critical problems facing developing countries. In this regard, they urged developed countries to take specific actions such as increasing grant aid and loans on concessional terms, measures to counter the instability and weakness of commodity markets, preferential tariffs and enhanced market access for products of export interest to developing countries, debt relief, establish mechanisms for the transfer of technology and know-how, including information and communication technologies, and undertake basic reforms in the international financial architecture as well as not to adopt and enforce measures and actions which adversely impact the economic situations of developing countries.
217. The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalising world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. However, in the light of the accepted premise of national responsibility for development and national ownership of development strategies, it is incumbent upon the international community as a whole to consider the issue of an appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments when deciding collectively on future disciplines and commitments and on the implementation and interpretation of existing ones.
218. The Ministers reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the promotion of international co-operation for development in the context of globalisation and interdependence. It is evident that a large number of Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, particularly in Africa and the LDCs, have been marginalised and

others risk marginalisation, and are thus unable to fully share in the benefits of these processes, while they remain most vulnerable to adverse impacts. In this regard, they expressed their deep concern about the tendency by developed countries to take decisions that affect the world economy outside the multilateral framework of the United Nations System and without giving full considerations to the interests of developing countries.

219. The Ministers reaffirmed also their commitment to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and in this regard stressed the importance of ensuring proper follow-up to and implementation of the commitments made and agreements reached at this Conference.
220. The Ministers took note, with appreciation, of the report of the World Commission on Social Dimension of Globalisation and urged the international community, in particular international financial and trade institutions and the UN organizations to give full consideration to the proposals and recommendations contained therein in order to make globalisation work for all the world's peoples.
221. The Ministers remained deeply concerned over the fact that developing countries are shouldering a disproportionate share of the adjustment burden, taking into consideration the rapid changes and transformations of the world economy. They called upon the international community, in particular the financial and development multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to establish innovative and new financial mechanisms to support developing countries to meet their immediate social and economic needs as they implement their long-term development programmes.
222. The Ministers emphasised the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing the growing disparity between rich and poor, both among and within countries through, inter alia, the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this regard, they called for strengthened solidarity and the elaboration of consensus for action, with specific measures and clearly defined timeframes.
223. The Ministers also emphasised that the effective implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, will require political will to fulfil the commitments undertaken particularly in making available the means of implementation.

Revitalising International Co-operation for Development

224. The Ministers emphasised the importance of the achievement of the objectives of poverty eradication, economic and social progress, sustained economic growth and sustainable development depends on a more favourable and equitable international economic environment and revitalised international development co-operation supportive of developing countries' efforts, in the context of developing countries' increasing openness and exposure to international trade. They noted that, as the second largest grouping of developing countries, member states of the Movement bear an enormous task to put their people and their well-being as their first priority, and must therefore act decisively and immediately to win the war against poverty. They agreed to work towards forging stronger partnerships in creating an enabling environment that would assist developing

countries in mobilising resources for development.

225. The Ministers expressed concern at the “new protectionism” in the form of labour standards, environment standards, other social and human rights standards and technical, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards which are coming to the core, and totally rejected all attempts to use these issues as conditionalities and pretexts for restricting market access or aid and technology flows to developing countries or linking them to the multilateral trade negotiations. In this context, the Ministers underscored the importance of increased technical assistance to the developing countries for building their capacity. The Ministers urged States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to enhance international co-operation and to take the necessary steps, including the fulfilment of the commitments on ODA, in order to achieve the international goals of full and decent employment and the effective realisation of the fundamental principles and rights at work.
226. The Ministers reiterated the concern expressed by the NAM in its Declaration at the 91st International Labour Conference over the current methods and procedures for supervising labour standards. They welcomed international co-operation as an important contribution to the effective realisation of International Labour Standards and, to this end, they particularly regarded as a necessity the effective review and improvement of the working methods of the Committee on the Application of Standards for the sake of transparency and impartiality.
227. The Ministers recognised the right of all States to determine freely their own political, economic and social system. The Non-Aligned Movement condemned the continued application by certain countries of extra-territorial measures and legislation, and their imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures against certain developing countries, and reaffirmed that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State, including through non-extension of Most Favoured Nations (MFN) status with the view to preventing these countries from the exercise of their right to determine, of their total free will, their own political, economic and social system. They reiterated the Movement’s call on all States not to recognise the unilateral, extraterritorial laws enacted by certain countries which impose sanctions on companies and individuals belonging to other countries, since these measures and legislation threaten the sovereignty of States, adversely affect their social and economic development, marginalise developing countries from the process of globalisation, and are contrary to international law, the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, and agreed principles of the multilateral trading system and WTO rules.
228. The Ministers emphasized the need to ensure compensation of losses by countries which resort to unilateral coercive economic measures, bearing in mind that enforcement of such unilateral measures have inflicted grave and irreparable losses including heavy financial and human toll on targeted developing countries.
229. The Ministers emphasized that the core resources are the bedrock of the activities of the funds and programs of the UN and, while appreciating the countries that have increased their core resource contributions and thereby reversed the chronic trend of decline of regular resources, stressed that the UN funds and programs should be provided with stable and adequate resource base and that the developed countries should increase their

funding efforts in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals including (MDGs). In this regard, they agreed to undertake the necessary actions, in collaboration with the G77, to ensure that the international community stays engaged in the FfD process. The Ministers urged the international community to create a dedicated multilateral mechanism of international financing for the development of infrastructure in developing countries.

International Trade

230. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that, at the General Council on 31 July 2004, WTO Members have been able to agree to a framework for further negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. The successful final outcome of the Doha Work Programme would depend on the manner in which negotiations take into account the interests and concerns of developing countries and in a process that is transparent and inclusive. The Ministers recall that in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, it had been emphasized that the needs and interests of the developing countries, have to be placed at the heart of the Work Programme and that positive efforts should be continued to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least developing among them, secure a share in the growth of world trade. They reiterated the Movement's position on the negotiations on International Trade at the WTO as outlined in paragraph 239 of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and the need to redouble efforts for the early and effective realization of the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda.
231. The Ministers agreed to work towards seeking greater market access to developed countries for agricultural and other non-agricultural exports of interest to the developing countries in multilateral negotiations. They reiterated that negotiations on these issues must fully take into account the concerns and special needs of the developing countries, especially the need for operationalisation of Special and Differential treatment to promote, inter alia, food security, rural development and export diversification in developing countries, which are predominantly agrarian economies. In this regard they stressed the importance of the further strengthening of their productive capacities and creation of an environment conducive to product and export diversification. They also urged that particular concerns of developing countries relating, inter alia, to trade preferences and net food imports be adequately addressed.
232. The Ministers emphasised the need to facilitate the accession of developing countries, particularly LDCs, into the WTO with a more streamlined and non-discriminatory process of accession, as reflected in the Zanzibar Ministerial Declaration of the LDCs. In this regard, the Ministers reiterated the need for developed countries to grant LDCs duty-free market access and welcomed the European Union's "Everything-but-Arms" initiative and the commitment undertaken by the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs to expedite the work towards duty-free and quota-free access for all products originating from LDCs in markets of developed countries.
233. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the UNCTAD XI Ministerial Meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 13 – 18 June 2004 and reaffirmed UNCTAD's unique role as the focal point in the United Nations system for trade and development and the interrelated areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development as was ratified in the Sao Paulo Consensus. The Ministers also welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to host UNCTAD XII in 2008.

234. The Ministers reiterated the important role that UNCTAD has to play in helping developing countries to forge a positive agenda for present and future negotiations to move the Doha process forward. In this connection, they welcomed the establishment, in collaboration with UNCTAD of the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2002 to help developing countries to navigate increasingly complex regional and international economic arrangements resulting from globalisation and liberalisation processes, in particular to enhance the capacity of trade negotiations of developing countries to participate effectively in the ongoing WTO negotiations. The Ministers emphasised that the delivery of technical assistance by the WTO and other trade related organisations should be tailored to the needs of developing and least developed WTO Member Countries, as well as acceding countries.

Commodities

235. The Ministers expressed special concern over the negative impact of volatile global commodity prices and of their continuing decline, on the developing countries. In this regard they highlighted the persistence of protectionist practices in developed countries in respect of commodities of export interest to developing countries. They further noted that the excessive recourse to anti-dumping measures and other protectionist measures have intensified the difficulties that many developing countries are facing in the eradication of poverty. They also welcomed the establishment of the UNCTAD Task Force on Commodities to comprehensively address the issue and called upon the international financial institutions to support the strengthening of national institutional capacities; the designing and implementation of a diversification fund; the provision of an effective and quick disbursing and non-pro-cyclical compensatory financing facility, particularly to assist cotton producers in developing countries who have been negatively affected by subsidies in developed countries.

Financial, Investment and Monetary Issues

236. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's call for the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, in order to guarantee democracy and transparency in the decision-making process in these institutions. The Bretton Woods Institutions should not crowd out the sovereign policy space of developing countries in determining economic policies. They further stressed that the Bretton Woods Institutions should take into account the specific conditions of developing countries and called upon the Bretton Woods Institutions to refrain from any unfair practices against the developing countries and not to link their credit facilities with any conditionalities particularly on security and political consideration. They further called upon the developed countries to increase their financial contributions to the international financial institutions and to enhance their ability to respond to crises in a timely manner.
237. The Ministers reaffirmed the call made in the Monterrey Consensus to strengthen international tax co-operation and urged the international community through the United Nations to strengthen such co-operation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and co-ordination of the work of the concerned international bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries. In this regard, they called for the conversion of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Tax Co-operation into an inter-governmental subsidiary body of

ECOSOC.

Foreign Direct Investment

238. The Ministers underscored the fact that just as there are obligations by host governments to protect foreign investment, there should be corresponding obligations by foreign investors to make decisions that take into account the interest of host countries and abide by their laws and regulations. The Ministers again urged developed countries to refrain from protectionist tendencies against foreign direct investment outflows to developing countries, in the interest of new growth opportunities.
239. The Ministers, while recalling the commitments made at the Johannesburg WSSD to promote corporate responsibility and accountability in order to strengthen the institutional framework of sustainable development, recognize the positive role that the private firms, especially the transnational corporations can play in stimulating the economic development of host countries.

External Debt

240. The Ministers urged the intensification of measures on debt relief to promote development and investments in accordance with the priorities and needs of developing countries. They acknowledged the progress made with the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt initiative while recognising that significant challenges remain to ensure that those countries achieve a lasting exit from unsustainable debt. They also called for further flexibility in the eligibility and implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt initiative in order for it to be able to provide faster, broader and deeper debt relief. They further stressed the need to keep the computation of debt sustainability under review in order to be able to compensate for changing circumstances at the national and international levels.
241. The Ministers noted, with serious concern, that over the past years a number of financial crises caused the amount of debt servicing in many countries to surpass the sustainability level due, inter alia, to the increased external debt burden of developing countries. In this context, they reiterated their proposal for concrete steps towards addressing the debt problem as outlined in paragraph 261 of the Kuala Lumpur Summit Document. The Ministers stressed the need to consider a comprehensive solution to the debt problems of developing countries as an important factor among others in their poverty eradication and sustained high economic growth so that they can join the world economy.

Sustainable Development

242. The Ministers emphasised the need to reinvigorate the commitment of the international community at the highest political level for the achievement of sustainable development. They called for the international community to renew its efforts towards the implementation of Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002. In this regard they emphasised the need for a strengthened North-South co-operation based on common but differentiated responsibilities for the accelerated implementation and the promotion of sustainable development resulting in a higher level of international solidarity.

243. The Ministers, while reaffirming their satisfaction for the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund by virtue of Resolution 57/265 of the UN General Assembly, welcome the decision to have the World Solidarity Fund High-Level Committee convene soon and underline the collective responsibility of Governments, civil society and private sector for the mobilization of the financial resources required for the immediate and effective entry into functioning of the World Solidarity Fund in order to allow it to contribute the Millennium Development Goals and particularly to the eradication of poverty.
244. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's full support of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and called for its strengthening as a leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implications of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system, and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as stipulated in the Nairobi Declaration. The Minister stressed the importance of full and constructive involvement of all countries and relevant UN agencies and programmes in the finalization of the UNEP's Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support for developing countries, as decided at the 8th Special Session of GC/GMEP of UNEP held in February 2004 in Juju.
245. Ministers also reaffirmed their support for United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development.
246. The Ministers further pledged their active participation in the work of the two institutions that have evolved from the accord of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) signed at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982; the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea. They congratulated the Authority on its Tenth Anniversary and noted that the Authority had completed the organizational phase of its work, and was now embarking on its substantive phase.
247. The Ministers again stressed the need for UNEP and UN-Habitat to increase their co-operation and co-ordination, within the frameworks of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, as well as their separate Executive Directors. They reiterated that capacity building and technical assistance must remain important components of the work programmes of both UNEP and UN-Habitat.
248. The Ministers emphasised the fundamental principle of the sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources. In this regard, they expressed their concern about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests that exploit the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing territories to the detriment of the interest of the inhabitants of those Territories and deprive them of their right to control the wealth of their countries. They condemned those activities and in this regard reiterated that the exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic interests in violation of the United Nations Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in threat to the integrity and prosperity of those territories.
249. The Ministers welcomed the results of UN Convention to Combat Desertification

(UNCCD VI) held in Havana, Cuba from 25th August to the 5th of September 2003, and stressed the importance of its decision to accept the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of the Convention. They further stressed the need to strengthen the UNCCD as a global sustainable development convention in an effort to eradicate poverty and called for the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources, transfer of technology, and capacity building, for its effective implementation, particularly in Africa, in order to restore land for agriculture to address poverty resulting from land degradation. The Ministers welcomed the recognition of land degradation as a new focal area of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). They also stressed the need for the GEF to allocate more financial resources to this focal area to address the increasing needs.

250. The Ministers drew the attention of the international community to the need for international action to protect the Dead Sea and prevent any further environmental degradation of its ecosystem through concessional grants.
251. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and called for measures by the international community to help developing countries with its implementation. The Ministers called for an early completion of the process of elaboration of the international legal regime, within the framework of the CBD, to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as agreed in the World Summit on Sustainable Development. They also urged the implementation of the work programme arising from the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity.
252. The Ministers agreed that the climate change and its adverse effects are among the most important global challenges to humanity. The Ministers recalled the legally binding commitments for the Annex one parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce their emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) as contained in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol. They urged the international community to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with the Millennium Declaration. The Ministers reiterated their categorical rejection of all attempts by some developed countries to link their ratifications of the Kyoto Protocol with the question of participation by developing countries in the reduction of GHG emissions.
253. The Ministers welcomed the Marrakech Declaration and the Marrakech Accord adopted at the Seventh Conference of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention held in Marrakech in November 2001, and also welcomed the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development adopted at the Eighth Conference of the Parties held in India in October/November 2002. They further noted that at the XVIII Conference of the States Parties to the UNFCCC, many parties included in their reports activities to adapt to climate change. The Ministers emphasized the need to provide support to developing countries in these efforts.
254. The Ministers once again urged Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to comply with its requirements and amendments, and to provide affordable, accessible, cost-effective, safe and environmentally sound alternatives to ozone depleting substances before 2010 in order to assist Article 5

countries in complying with the phase-out schedule under the Protocol.

Food Security

255. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's view that the right to food is a fundamental human right and its promotion and implementation constitute a moral imperative for the international community. They emphatically rejected the use of food as an instrument of economic or political pressure. They reiterated the Movement's concern over the large number of people, in particular children, who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. They welcomed the adoption of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, entitled International Alliance Against Hunger, adopted in June 2002, which affirmed the global commitment of reducing by half the number of undernourished by the year 2015.
256. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the current situation of the negotiating process of the Intergovernmental Working Group set up to define The Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of the National Food Security held in Rome, from 5 to 9 July 2004, which has been unable to finish its work due to the lack of political will of developed countries, in particular, in matters related to the reference of the right to food to parties in armed conflicts in the occupied territories, and the international responsibility of developed world in the full realization of the right to food.
257. The Ministers noted that the issues of implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement concerning agriculture remain marginalised in negotiations at the WTO. They expressed deep concern over the continuation of the negative impact of the Agreement on Agriculture, which is impeding the realisation of the right to development and the right to food. The Ministers, noted with deep appreciation the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Globalisation and its Impact on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights, presented to the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights, in which the High Commissioner had noted the negative impact of the Agreement on Agriculture on Food Security, on the effective realisation of the Right to Development and the Right to Health. They encouraged the High Commissioner and his office to continue with his endeavours in this regard and to bring the report to the attention of the relevant international organisation especially the WTO.

Science and Technology

258. The Ministers expressed the Movement's deep concern over the increasing disparity in science and technology capacities between rich and poor nations posing a serious impediment to the development of developing countries, and called for a strengthening of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development to enable it to be more effective in supporting and assisting the developing countries in their national efforts to enhance research and development, particularly in the fields of health, education and agriculture. They stressed the need for the urgent operationalisation of commitments to transfer technology to developing countries on concessional, preferential and favourable terms.
259. The Ministers affirmed that for developing countries to achieve the development goals defined in the Millennium Declaration, they should have access to new and emerging technologies as well as to help them build and nurture scientific and technological

capacities.

Information and Communication Technology

260. The Ministers emphasised that there is an urgent need for the international community and all stakeholders to increase their effort to address the development of information and communication technology and bridge the digital divide as a way to reduce the continued imbalances and inequalities between developed and developing countries in the field of information and communication technology. They agreed to move towards a knowledge-based economy in order to pool and share expertise in state-of-the-art technologies, in a complementary manner to bridge both the urban-rural divide and the digital divide.
261. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the launching of the preparatory process of the 2nd phase of the World Summit on the Information Society by the 1st Preparatory meeting held in Hammamet on June 24–26, 2004 and call for wide attendance and active participation in the Summit to be held in Tunis on November 16-18, 2005. The Ministers urged Governments at the highest level, civil society and private sector representatives to participate and contribute in the deliberations of the Summit with a view to bridging the digital divide and to ensure universal access to the benefits of an Information Society.

South-South Co-operation

262. The Ministers remained committed to further strengthening South-South co-operation. In this context, they emphasised the importance of having effective strategies and mechanisms, for promoting accelerated economic growth and development and self-reliance, giving a greater dynamism to the world economy and promoting the restructuring of the international economic relations. The Ministers reaffirmed the outcome of the South Summit, held in Havana from 10th to 14th April 2000, in particular the decisions adopted on strengthening the co-ordination and co-operation between the NAM and the G77 through the JCC in the promotion and defence of the common interest of the developing countries. They also supported the ongoing implementation and follow-up of the Havana outcome including the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee from 18th to 22nd August 2001 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran and called for the implementation of the Tehran Consensus.
263. They welcomed the celebration of the High-level Conference of the South-South Co-operation in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco in December 2003, and the adoption of the Marrakech Declaration and the Marrakech Framework for the implementation of South-South co-operation which reaffirmed the commitment of the Developing Countries to South-South co-operation and identified specific measures and initiatives to achieve this goal. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of these measures and initiatives and to expediting the achievement of the time-bound objectives contained in the Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South co-operation.
264. The Ministers welcomed the Libyan, Cuban and Nigerian initiative called the South-South Health Care Programme that was launched during the South Summit. NAM member countries are invited to support the programme.
265. The Ministers recognised the significant role of economic and technical co-operation

between developing countries and countries with economies in transition in promoting implementation of development programmes and projects. They welcomed the launching of the NAM Business Forum on South-South Co-operation on 23 to 24 February 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, at the XIII NAM Summit, welcomed the activities of the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Co-operation (NAM CSSTC) in Jakarta, the contribution by the South Centre in Geneva, and recognised the role of the Centre for Science and Technology in New Delhi.

266. The Ministers welcomed sub-regional co-operation initiatives such as ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy) and BIMST-EC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Co-operation), where a number of projects are now in the pipeline, as excellent frameworks for socio-economic development among neighbouring countries. They also welcomed the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD), initiated by Thailand in 2002, as a forum that can tap into the inherent strengths of Asian countries for sustainable development and mutual prosperity.

Critical Economic Situation in Africa

267. The Ministers acknowledged that the socio-economic situation in Africa remains precarious, despite the critical role played by Africa and the African people in the world economy over centuries, and despite the many efforts made by African countries, individually and collectively, to lay a solid foundation for Africa's development. In the context of globalisation and liberalisation, they remained concerned that the decline in ODA and other financial flows to Africa will increase the marginalisation of the continent in the global economy. In addition, they were also deeply concerned that FDI flows to Africa still account for a mere 2% of the total FDI flows to developing countries, and that its share in global trade accounts for less than 1%. They continued to call for the reversal of this negative trend as well as for solutions to be found to the unsustainable debt burden and the inequities in the international trade arena, both of which hinder Africa's development prospects. Furthermore, they recognised that FDI can only complement concessional finance and not replace it.
268. The Ministers commended the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as representing the collective determination and commitment of African governments and people to take control of their future development and assume their pressing duty to fight poverty by placing their countries on the path of sustainable economic and social development. They also welcomed the endorsement of this initiative by the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Secretary-General as well as the support for the initiative by the G8 and the EU amongst others. They underlined the importance of these steps in achieving one of the most important goals of NEPAD, namely the establishment of a new relationship based on partnership and mutual responsibility and accountability between Africa and the international community, to overcome the Continent's marginalisation. In this regard, they expressed the Non-Aligned Movement's sincere endorsement of, and support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
269. The Ministers shared the approach to development as embedded in NEPAD and which is based on a thorough evaluation of past experience, in particular the realisation that Africa's economic growth and sustainable development cannot be achieved through an approach solely or predominantly based on the aid-and-credit pattern, which has failed.

Therefore, they supported the new comprehensive development approach which calls for a substantive new partnership including with the international and African private sectors, as well as with bilateral and multilateral financial and technical partners, together with the African civil society and people as a whole.

Least Developed Countries

270. The Ministers called for the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action and urge all stakeholders to meet their obligations to help the least developed countries to reduce their poverty and promote sustainable development through, inter-alia, increased ODA, FDI, debt relief and market access. The Ministers stressed the urgent need for the developed countries to effectively implement their commitment on such assistance to LDCs as contained in paragraph 83 in the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade of 2001 – 2010.
271. The Ministers, while recalling the Ministerial declaration of the High-Level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council, underlined the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010 and stressed the need for increased efforts and speedy measures with a view to meeting its goals and targets in a timely manner.

Landlocked Developing Countries

272. The Ministers recognised and acknowledged the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a New Global Framework for transit transport co-operation for landlocked and transit developing countries and reaffirm the Movement's continued support to their endeavours in every regard, particularly in their efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Small Island Developing States

273. The Ministers pledged their continued support for the Barbados Programme of Action to address the special needs of Small Island Developing States and welcomed preparations being undertaken for the International Meeting for a full and comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action to be held from 10th to 14th January 2005 in Mauritius. They invited all Member States to participate at the highest possible level and urged the international donor community to fully support the implementation of the outcome of the International Meeting.

CHAPTER IV: SOCIAL ISSUES

Social Development

274. The Ministers reiterated their strong support for the promotion of the social development agenda, meaning the urgent eradication of poverty through inter-alia, enhanced international co-operation and solidarity, the amelioration of social conditions, the enhancement of the standards of living, as well as, the protection of the environment, in order to ensure that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all. In this connection, they emphasised the importance of dialogue on strengthening international co-operation and partnership based on the mutuality of interests and benefits, common but differentiated responsibilities and genuine interdependence.
275. The Ministers further reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action which recommended actions to create, in a framework of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, a national and international environment favourable to social development, eradicating poverty, enhancing productive employment, achieving full employment and fostering social integration. The Ministers committed the Movement to the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalising world”, held in Geneva, 26 June-1 July 2000, which constituted the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels. They underlined the significance of the forthcoming forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, 9-18 February 2005, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and welcomed the decision to convene a high-level plenary meeting during the forty-third session.
276. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of health as indispensable for sustainable development, and in this regard, they remained deeply concerned that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases continue to threaten the achievement of economic and developmental goals of developing countries. The Ministers remain concerned over the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and encourage the continued engagement by the international community in this matter, as manifested by the General Assembly High-Level Plenary meetings held on 22 September 2003 in New York. They reiterated the need for greater international co-operation and the flow of assistance, in particular from the developed countries in the fight against the pandemic and in this regard, welcomed the successful outcome of the Fifteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS held in Bangkok, Thailand on 11 – 16 July 2004. The Ministers welcomed the Kathmandu Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Regional Conference on “Accelerating the Momentum to Fight Against HIV/AIDS in South Asia” held from 3-4 February 2003 in Kathmandu, Nepal, in co-operation with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNAIDS. They welcomed the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health which clearly recognised that the TRIPS Agreement should be interpreted in a manner supportive of the right to protect public health, in particular, to promote access to medicine for all. They reiterated the need for greater international co-operation and flow of assistance, in particular from developed countries, in the fight against the pandemic, the need for according priority to multilateral approaches and also for directing adequate resources to the Global Fund for its augmentation and urgent disbursement to all countries in need.

277. The Ministers also expressed their concern that new forms of diseases such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) can have a tremendous impact particularly on the people and economies of affected countries and welcomed the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on SARS held in Bangkok in April 2003 as an example of regional co-operation that has been undertaken to deal with this communicable disease that stands to affect the economy and social well being of countries. They urged the enhancement of international co-operation to deal with such emerging infectious diseases.

International Migration and Development

278. The Ministers took note of the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and members of their families and encouraged all countries to consider becoming parties to this Convention. The Ministers reiterated their call on Member Countries of the Movement and the international community to work towards the effective respect for the human dignity and well being of migrants, international norms and full compliance with relevant international instruments. They again expressed their concern over the prevalence and enforcement of stringent immigration policies in various developed countries, which severely restrict the free movement of people, and breed xenophobia due to the discriminatory manner in which these policies are implemented. They also expressed deep concern over new immigration laws and regulations adopted by some developed countries, which lead to massive deportations of immigrants from Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries and the violation of their fundamental human rights. They reiterated their call on those developed countries to take fully into account the social and economic effects those deportations would have on the affected developing countries, particularly those facing high debt burdens and high unemployment situations. They encouraged all countries to consider becoming parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families bearing in mind that only one ratification is needed for the entry into force of the Convention. They further encouraged all countries to consider taking the appropriate steps to implement the recommendations as they relate to migrants, contained in the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance as adopted in September 2001.

Human Rights

279. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's long-standing and principled position that all human rights, in particular the Right to Development are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat all human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be respected. It is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples, in particular the right to development in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as well as international human rights law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the provisions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Furthermore, they agreed to work towards the transformation and

the continuing adaptation of human rights machinery to current and future needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and to contribute significantly to the prevention of their violations. They also stressed the importance of addressing the international human rights agenda and the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in a fair and balanced manner, taking into account the need for equal treatment of both civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights. In strengthening the international co-operation and co-ordination in the field of Human Rights, the Ministers agreed to reinforce the Movement's presence by advancing its positions during the deliberations taking place in the main international fora, particularly, the Commission on Human Rights, the ECOSOC, and the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

280. The Ministers remained determined to promote and protect all human rights, in particular the right to development, as enunciated in the Declaration on the Right to Development. While stressing the indivisible nature of all human rights, they again placed emphasis on the importance of the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all human rights. In this regard, they stressed the need to strive for the greater acceptance and operationalisation and realisation of the right to development at the international level and called on all States to undertake necessary policy formulation and institute measures required for the implementation of the right to development as a fundamental human right. They emphasised the duty of States to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international co-operation for the realisation of the right to development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level (paragraph 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action). The United Nations Commission on Human Rights' Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development should continue to give priority to the operationalisation of this important right including, inter alia, elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development.
281. The Ministers stressed the need for mainstreaming the right to development in the operational programmes and objectives of the United Nations, specialised agencies, programmes and funds and in the policies and objectives of the international financial and multilateral trading systems. They underlined that in relation to the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, core principles such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including partnership and commitments, are important for the realisation of the right to development and prevention of discriminatory treatment to the issues of concern to the developing countries arising out of political or other non-economic reasons.
282. In the above context, the Ministers welcomed the substantive outcome of the High-level Seminar on the operationalisation of the right to development held in Geneva on 09-10 February 2004 within the framework of the Commission of Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development. The Ministers particularly welcomed the High-level Task Force on the Operationalisation of the Right to Development established by the Seminar consisting of practical expertise from the human rights, trade and economic fields as representing a meaningful way forward for the tangible realization of the right to development, which has been identified among the main objectives of the Millennium Development Goals which must be achieved.

283. The Ministers emphasised that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of the States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural characteristics of each country. Exploitation of human rights for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations, which is contrary to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, should be excluded. They reiterated that co-ordination of human rights activities must be carried out by the United Nations organs, bodies, programmes and specialised agencies, whose activities deal with human rights, so as to co-operate in order to strengthen, rationalise and streamline those activities, taking into account the need to avoid duplication, and in accordance with their respective mandates and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the ECOSOC, and the Commission on Human Rights.
284. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's view that every State should provide an effective framework for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and other relevant international and regional instruments on human rights, as well as a framework of remedies to redress human rights grievances or violations. In this context, they reaffirmed the important and constructive role to be played by independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and stressed that every effort should be made for the impartiality and objectivity of national institutions and call upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide greater assistance upon request by interested governments in the establishment and operations of the national institutions. Each national institution has the right to choose its framework in accordance with national legislation taking into account the Paris Principles, among others, on the establishment of national institutions.
285. The Ministers reaffirmed that democracy, good governance at both the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive and unilateral measures, rules and policies against developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations. They also reaffirmed that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation and instability engender social and economic exclusion and violation of human dignity and human rights. It is essential for States to promote efforts to combat abject poverty as well as foster participation by the poorest members of society in decision-making processes. In this context, they urged developed countries to assist the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, in fulfilling the basic needs of the society determined for the purpose of the right to development and also to concretise their commitment to the realisation of the goals of the NEPAD.
286. Ministers expressed their concern at the gross violation of human rights, in particular the right to life and the right to development, resulting from terrorist acts, and reiterated their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They also called for the need to promote and intensify international and regional co-operation in order to implement effective measures against terrorism. The Ministers urged all States individually and through international and regional co-

operation to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and related transnational crimes, such as, drugs and arms trafficking and money laundering so as to ensure greater protection for communities and their fundamental human rights. They noted with regret the adoption and enactment of legislation in certain countries, on fighting terrorism, which limit a number of individual rights and whose substance is discriminatory and xenophobic. They called upon all Governments concerned to take appropriate measures to protect the rights of the vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers and their families, and ethnic and religious minorities.

International Humanitarian Law

287. The Ministers urged that priority should be given to promoting knowledge of, respect for and observance of obligations assumed under International Humanitarian Law, in particular those of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1977 Protocols, and they encouraged States to consider ratifying or acceding to the two 1977 Additional Protocols. They took note of the adoption of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in this regard, and invited those States which have not yet done so to consider ratifying the 1954 Convention and its two additional Protocols.
289. The Ministers called upon all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.
290. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's condemnation of the increasing attacks on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and urged the Governments of Member States of the United Nations to ensure respect for the protection of the personnel of humanitarian organisations in conformity with the relevant international law. Humanitarian agencies and their personnel should respect the laws of the countries they work in and the principles of neutrality and non-interference, as well as cultural, religious and other values of the population in the countries where they operate.
291. The Ministers urged States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories. They urged the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians under foreign occupation.
292. The Ministers recalled the protection granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments to persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts and stressed that all detainees must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity.

Humanitarian Issues

293. The Ministers reaffirmed that the provision of humanitarian assistance must not be politicised and must be in full respect of the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as set forth in the UNGA resolution 46/182 and its annex as providing the guiding principles for the co-ordination of humanitarian assistance, and further emphasised that all United Nations humanitarian entities and associated organisations must act in accordance with their respective mandates, international humanitarian law

and national law.

294. The Ministers reaffirmed that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, they stressed that humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and on the basis of an appeal by the affected country.
295. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's commitment to enhance international co-operation to resolve international problems of a humanitarian character in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, they reiterated the rejection by the Non-Aligned Movement of the so-called "right" of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis either in the Charter of the United Nations or in international law.
296. The Ministers reaffirmed that international assistance to respond to humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, should be provided impartially upon request by the national government, and be based upon humanitarian considerations solely in accordance with the needs arising out of the particular natural disaster. In this respect, they reiterated the need to increase funding for international co-operation and disaster management, including early warning systems, taking into account particularly the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as it relates to the transition from relief to development.
297. The Ministers invited States, as appropriate, to give priority to and fully integrate disaster risk reductions strategies into all relevant legal, policy and planning instruments in order to address the social, economic, political and environmental dimensions that influence vulnerability to natural hazards, bearing in mind the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.
298. The Ministers acknowledged the urgent need to further sensitise the international community, particularly the donor community and the international financial institutions to alleviate the negative consequences on the economies, social development and environment, developing countries hosting large refugee populations and those who are in situations of post-conflict reconstruction with protracted and heavy refugee caseloads. They reiterated the necessity for international burden-sharing and responsibility in refugee situations and called for intensified financial and moral support to developing countries hosting refugees, upon request, while scrupulously observing the principles of neutrality, non-conditionality and non-interference.
299. The Ministers stressed the importance of continued international co-operation in support of the efforts by affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases.
300. The Ministers emphasized that humanitarian assistance should not be provided to the detriment of resources allocated to international co-operation for development.
301. The Ministers reiterated that economic growth and sustainable development are essential for prevention of and preparedness against natural disasters and other emergencies. Many emergencies reflect the underlying crisis in development facing developing countries. Humanitarian assistance should therefore be accompanied by a renewal of commitment to economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries. In this context, the Ministers stressed that adequate resources must be made available to

address their development problems.

302. The Ministers emphasized the need for enhancing regional co-operation for natural disaster management and stressed the importance of strengthening existing mechanisms and establishing regional specialized collaborative centres for natural disaster management.

Racism and Racial Discrimination

303. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the outcome of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001 and called for the implementation of its objectives. They also commended the international community for recognising that slavery and slave trade, including trans-Atlantic slave trade, are crimes against humanity. The Conference also recognised that legacies of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, genocide and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, social exclusion and economic disparities. They commended the Conference for having agreed on the NEPAD as a framework within which amongst others, remedial measures for redressing the legacies of these practices could be addressed and called for the formulation of similar programmes of reparations to descendants of slaves in the African Diaspora.
304. The Ministers expressed the Movement's commitment to the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In this regard, they welcomed Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2002/68 and General Assembly Resolution 57/195 creating the necessary mechanisms and guiding the effective follow up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They also reiterated the Movement's opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and expressed deep concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in various parts of the world. They reaffirmed that all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, constitute serious violations of human rights, which should be rejected through all political and legal means. They condemned the misuse of the new communications technologies, including the internet for inciting racial hatred and intolerance.
305. The Ministers remained convinced that political platforms and activities based on doctrines of superiority and violent nationalist ideologies, which are based on racial discrimination or ethnic exclusiveness and xenophobia, must be condemned as incompatible with democracy and accountable governance and expressed their determination to oppose such political platforms and activities which can undermine the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of equal opportunity.
306. The Ministers noted with appreciation the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for the comprehensive follow-up to the WCAR and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They noted that the process of the development of complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, will commence in January 2005 in Geneva. The Ministers called on all the

members of the United Nations to meet their commitment for the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) by 2005.

Indigenous Peoples

307. The Ministers supported the respect of economic, political, social and cultural rights and identity of the world indigenous population and recognized the need to give special attention to the efforts made at the national and multilateral levels to ameliorate the situation and living conditions of the indigenous populations, in particular women and children especially affected by poverty, in a framework of increased respect and development of their full fledged and participative citizenship.

Advancement of Women

308. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to the improvement of the situation of women, without exception. They emphasised the need to ensure the participation of women in the mainstream of development as well as in the political process, while at the same time pledged to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women. They looked forward to the convening of the NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women in Malaysia.
309. The Ministers recommitted the Movement to the implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as fully supported the outcome of the five-year review and appraisal as contained in “Further Actions and Initiatives” to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They reaffirmed Chapter IV.E of the Beijing Platform of Action on Women and Armed Conflict. They also expressed concern at the continuing trafficking in and abduction of particularly women and children. They called upon those States which were still not parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to work actively towards ratification of or accession to it and encouraged all Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.
310. The Ministers expressed their full endorsement of the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome documents of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”. The Ministers also underlined the significance of the forthcoming forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 28 February-11 March 2005, which will undertake to review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome documents of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly and consider current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women and girls.

The Situation of Children

311. The Ministers reiterated the Movement’s concern over the intolerable persistence of adverse social and economic conditions faced by children on account of poverty, the violation of children rights in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, use of

children in armed conflict, including abduction of children for training as child mercenaries and in terrorism, mass killing of children in communal and sectarian violence, child labour, particularly the worst forms of child labour, the continued exploitation and trafficking of children for pornography, prostitution and drug trafficking, the sale of children and their organs, the increasing number of children affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as the suffering of refugee and displaced children especially in Africa. Urgent steps, including through international co-operation, must be undertaken to address these problems. In this regard, they noted the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and encouraged all Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocols of the Convention.

312. The Ministers recognized the need for the United Nations to address the issue of the protection of children in an impartial, objective, non-selective and transparent manner.
313. The Ministers reaffirmed the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace recognising that they serve, *inter alia*, as the basis for the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010) for future generations, and invited States to expand their activities promoting a Culture of Peace and Non-violence at the national, regional and international levels.

Transnational Organised Crime

314. The Ministers reaffirmed that international efforts against transnational organised crime should be carried out with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.
315. The Ministers welcomed the generous offer by the Government of Thailand to host 11th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in 2005. They urged all States to consider ratifying the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its related Protocols.
316. The Ministers expressed concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law.
317. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in Merida, Mexico, in December 2003, that provides the opportunity, *inter alia*, for global response against corruption linked to organized crime, including provisions regarding acts of corruption involving public officials.
318. The Ministers stressed that corrupt practices, including lack of sound international corporate governance, bribery, money laundering and the transfer abroad of illegally acquired funds and assets undermine the economic and political stability, and the development efforts of developing countries. They encouraged all States to consider ratifying the UN Convention Against Corruption. They further called upon developed countries to provide technical assistance to developing countries through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions to allow

them to ratify and implement the treaty and to facilitate repatriation.

International Drug Control

319. The Ministers reiterated that on account of its trans-boundary and international nature, the global illicit drug problem can only be dealt with effectively through international co-operation based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the principle of shared responsibility in which national measures are in accordance with an integral and balanced global response to the global narcotic and illicit drug problem. They also continue to be concerned about the threat posed by the global illicit drug problem and related crimes and remain steadfast in their determination to take effective measures to counter the illicit production of, trafficking in and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and money laundering. They also stressed that the illicit drug chain begins with the insufficiently controlled trade of precursors and essential chemical substances for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and is completed with the laundering of money through the international, financial and commercial channels. In this regard, they emphasised the importance of strengthening control on trade in precursors and essential chemical substances, sharing of information on prevention and suppression measures, and enhancing international co-operation to support alternative development programmes, which should include the link between extreme poverty, crime, illicit crop cultivation and drug abuse.
320. The Ministers also reiterated the Movement's call on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and developed countries to fully support developing countries in their fight against cultivation, production, trafficking and transit of illicit drugs, through providing them with adequate financial and technical assistance. In this context, they stressed that the sustainability of alternative development programmes requires also access to markets of developed countries under competitive conditions.
321. The Ministers also remained committed to the pledge undertaken at the XI Summit to strengthen international co-operation to eradicate the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups, drug traffickers and their paramilitary gangs, and other armed criminal groups which have resorted to all types of violence, thus undermining the democratic institutions of States and violating basic human rights. Effective measures must be taken to halt the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which is linked to illicit drug trafficking and which is generating unacceptable levels of crime and violence affecting the national security and the economies of many States.
322. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's determination to fully implement the Final Document of the 20th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on the basis of the principles of shared responsibility for addressing the demand and supply-side of narcotic drug trafficking, in conformity with principles and purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter and other international instruments, in particular respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Global Road Safety

323. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/289 of 14 April 2004 on "Improving Global Road Safety" as an important step by the international community to address this issue.

324. The Ministers expressed their great concern at the rapid increase, in traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide, which accounted for an estimated 1.26 million deaths in 2000 and which disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries, and also expressed concern at the economic costs of road traffic injuries which amount to 518 billion United States dollars per annum, with developing countries bearing 100 billion dollars of the cost.
325. The Ministers, underlining the need for the further strengthening of international co-operation to deal with issues of road safety, welcomed the decision by the World Health Organization, working in close co-operation with the United Nations regional commissions, to act as coordinator on road safety issues and urged all States to extend to it their full co-operation in carrying out its mandate.

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