

Statement of the Group of 77 & China
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Shahbaz,
Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Chairman of the G-77 Vienna Chapter,
during the High-level Dialogue on "UN System-wide Coherence: The
Next Steps, Vienna, 04-05 March 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, I am pleased to welcome all participants and express our appreciation to UNIDO and especially to Dr. Yumkella for his initiative in organizing this High-level Dialogue. We are confident that this meeting would highlight some main issues regarding UN System wide Coherence in the context of sustainable development. The Group stresses the importance of reaching global anti-poverty targets and support all efforts to make the UN system a more productive, transparent, accountable, efficient and effective organization.

2. The Group attaches high priority to the reform of the United Nations, and wishes to reaffirm that the reform process should be aimed at strengthening multilateralism, providing the Organization with a substantive capacity to fully and effectively meet the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and at consolidating

and agencies to strengthen the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of development.

7. The Group stresses that industrialization remains an essential factor in the sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty in developing countries. The Group reaffirms its full support for the mandate of UNIDO and calls for enhancing the Organization's role and maintaining its institutional integrity in the context of UN reform.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Group of 77 and China would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the position of G77 and NAM, in the context of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), stated during the plenary meetings and subsequent informal meetings of the UN General Assembly. Both groupings would prefer an integrated process instead of a divided one. Our position on this approach could evolve further, depending on the results of the consultations. Funding, development and governance will be areas of priority interest for both Groups and no *a priori* decision with regard to when decisions will be taken on the Panel report. This should flow from the consultations. In other words there should not be any artificial deadlines.

9. We reaffirm that economic and social development should remain the centre piece of deliberations at the UN and that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs should continue to be the overarching framework of the UN activities. We also reiterate that development cooperation should be demand-driven and