

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of UNCTAD XII

Corrigendum

Please replace paragraphs 12, 14 and 25 with the following paragraphs:

12. We note with concern that recent escalations in food and grain prices have caused social and political destabilization and market instability in several of our member States. Collective urgent measures at the global level are required to assure the world of adequate food security and stable food and grain markets. Renewed attention is required for the development of the agricultural sector, particularly in Africa and the net-food-importing developing countries.

14. We underscore the importance of the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities (2005), the African Union Trade Ministers' declaration on UNCTAD XII (2008), the outcome of the pre-UNCTAD XII Brasilia Conference on the Global Initiative on Commodities (2007), the Arusha outcome of the expert meeting of LDCs (2007) in preparation for UNCTAD XII and General Assembly resolution 61/190, and request the support of the international community for their full implementation. We also underscore the importance of achieving a development-oriented outcome within the context of the Doha Round of negotiations. We call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to urgently establish a subprogramme on commodities at UNCTAD during the current UNCTAD work programme, taking into account the recommendations of regional and international organizations; and we invite UNCTAD members to establish a commodity-specific intergovernmental machinery, in the form of a multi-year committee or a group of experts entrusted with the monitoring of the abovementioned programme. The subprogramme on commodities should take into account work being undertaken in regional/international organizations, including the World Trade Organization.

25. We recognize the different levels of development and size of economies among the developing countries, and call on UNCTAD to enhance its work on the special problems of LDCs, African countries, small island developing States, structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies and the related problems and challenges faced by middle-income countries. In addition, we call on UNCTAD to provide appropriate support to facilitate the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. We recognize the special needs of the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and call on UNCTAD to continue to address those needs and provide appropriate support for the comprehensive and timely implementation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration and Programme of Action. All efforts must be made to ensure that the outcome of the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held in 2008 contributes to establishing efficient transport systems and integration of LLDCs into the international trading system and addressing the challenges and problems faced by transit developing countries. We also take note of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration.