



STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH CENTRE AT THE SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE G77 PLUS CHINA

Havana, Cuba, 09.16.2023

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by expressing our gratitude for the invitation to the South Centre to participate in this Summit.

There was good reason to hope that the devastating economic, social and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in developing countries, would lead the international community to build a new world order based on genuine international cooperation and solidarity among peoples.

This unfortunately did not happen. The rich countries not only strove to maintain the pre-pandemic world order, but also accentuated protectionist policies and economic aggression, including illegal unilateral coercive measures such as the unjust blockade suffered by the Cuban people.

Cuba assumed the presidency of the Group of 77 + China in New York at a particular time of important, international defining moments in different areas: environmental, fiscal, financial and health. We highlight the important role that Cuba's presidency played in the conclusion of the new treaty on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions.

The G-77 plus China represents, in the architecture of international relations, a key instrument for building a multilateral system that supports and does not hinder the development of our countries. With its 134 Member countries, it defends the interests of three quarters of the world's population, including the most vulnerable.

This summit can contribute to consolidate the cooperation mechanisms between member countries and the Non-Aligned Movement for the reform of the United Nations system and the global financial, trade and fiscal architecture where the interests and rights of developing countries are respected.

It is also necessary to make effective the financial and technology transfer obligations of developed countries in the fight against climate change, including the operationalization of the loss and damage fund agreed at COP27.

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organization created by and for developing countries, has benefited from strong cooperation with the Group of 77+China since its inception. We remain firmly committed to such cooperation in a variety of areas where the Group focuses its efforts.

Finally, we congratulate the Government of Cuba for the excellent organization of this Summit.