



**Statement Delivered by Ambassador Girma Asmerom  
Special Envoy of the President and  
Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations  
During the  
Commemorative Summit on the 50th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 14-15 June 2014**

Your Excellency President Evo Morales  
President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I bring greetings from your brother the President of Eritrea H.E. Mr Isaias Afwerki who could not attend this important and historic meeting because of other engagements.

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Government of the State of Eritrea I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the government and people Plurinational State of Bolivia for the welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation.

Excellencies,

Today we should not only celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Eritrea strongly believes that we must frankly assess and discuss whether we have achieved what we set out to achieve 50 years ago?

Excellencies,

The principles and goals of G77 and China are clear and achievable! They were valid fifty years ago and they are valid today. Fifty years ago we pledged to promote equality in international economic and social order and promote the interest of the developing world.

It is appropriate and important for all of us to ask why we are then still talking about the issues and problem which we promised to eradicate and solve 50 years

ago. There is no other reason except that we are not practicing and implementing what we have collectively agreed to do so. The principle of solidarity and unity is compromised.

After 50 years of existence, we even have today some member states who for bilateral, political, economic and diplomatic expediencies are pushing the agenda and interests of the big powers instead of the goals and objective of our organization. They even go to an extent of pushing for the imposition of sanctions against a member of G77 and China.

This unacceptable behavior and must not be tolerated. It must be condemned by all of us. Therefore, we must call for all unilaterally and multilaterally imposed sanction on any developing countries to immediately and unconditionally lifted. At any fora or meeting, we should all protect and defend the interest of the Developing countries. Unity and Solidarity is the way forward and our salvation. No nation Big or Small should be marginalized or punished for its independent social, political and economic development policies. Sanctions go against the letter and spirit of poverty eradication, post-2015 Development goals, MDGs and SDGs.

Excellency,

Eritrea believes that today's theme "Towards a New World Order for Living Well" is appropriate. It is the way forward for the eradication of poverty. The people of the world wherever they live or reside have the right to live in peace and economic prosperity. Equality and sovereignty of all people and countries must be the bases of our interaction. Self-reliance and comprehensive economic development is Eritrea's model of development. That is why Eritrea has been able to achieve and be on track on six of the MDG.

In conclusion, Eritrea is full committed to the principles and Goals of G77 and China.

Thank you!