



16 February 2008

## Press Release

The governing Board of the South Centre completed its meeting in Geneva today. The South Centre is the think-tank of the developing countries, G-77 and China, on global strategic and development issues.

The Board is chaired by Mr. Benjamin W. Mkapa, the former President of Tanzania and members include Professor Norman Girvan (former Secretary- General of the Association of Caribbean States, Jamaica), Chief Emeka Anyaoku (former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Nigeria), Professor Deepak Nayyar (former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and former Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi, India), Mr. Li Zhaoxing (former Minister of Foreign Affairs, China), Professor José Antonio Ocampo (former UN Under-Secretary General, Colombia), Mr. Al Zalzalah (former Minister of Commerce, Kuwait), and Mr. Bagher Asadi (former Ambassador of Iran to the UN, Iran).

The Board reviewed the past performance, present activities and future challenges of the institution, and believes that the Centre has made excellent progress in its work programmes and in particular Trade for Development, Innovation and Access to Knowledge and Global Governance for Development, supported by its strengthened outreach activities.

The Board welcomed the fact that at the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Representatives, the members of the Council highly commended the Secretariat for its work and activities.

Among other recent developments the Board noted the lack of progress in the Doha Development Round, the increasing shift from the multilateral to the bilateral trading system. In this context, the Board expressed concern that the current EPA negotiations between the ACP countries and the European Union in their present form could seriously jeopardize the development prospects of the ACP countries. The Board also reviewed other global challenges facing the South, including the financial and economic crisis, the global energy crisis, the crisis in climate change, and the crisis in the governance of the global institutions.

The Chairman and the Board reaffirmed the important role that the South Centre is playing in organizing the South, in assisting the South in global negotiations, and in promoting South-South cooperation.

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**For more information :**

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