

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA**

**BY MR. ISAIAH CHOL ARUAI,  
HEAD OF THE SUDAN DELEGATION TO THE FORTIETH  
SESSION OF THE  
STATISTICAL COMMISSION,**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 3(M): DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS  
(New York, 26 February 2009).**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Let me at the outset to extend sincere congratulations to you on your re-election as the Chairman of the Fortieth Session of the Statistical Commission, congratulations are extended also to the other members of the bureau. The Group of 77 and China assures you and the entire bureau of its support as you undertake to lead the Commission in its work for this Session. We are confident in your ability to lead us to a successful outcome. We would like also to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the important contributions that the Commission has made in promoting the improvement of international statistical standards and methods.
2. Mr. Chairman, it's well known, the international community has made important strides during the past few years in building on a normative framework for global development cooperation, established through the commitments made at the major UN summits and conferences. The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the MDGs. The group recognizes the extremely important contributions that the Commission has made in promoting significant improvement in the establishment of indicators to monitor the fulfillment of the MDGs, both at the global and national levels.
3. Unfortunately, implementation remains the unfinished part of the development agenda. Securing the effective and full implementation of the agreed goals and commitments thus continues to be the highest priority of the Group. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/265, the Group underlines the need to evolve an intergovernmental agreement to develop and monitoring mechanism to track and encourage the implementation of goals and commitments including MDG8.
4. Mr. Chairman, the Group of 77 and China welcomes the opportunity to discuss the issue of the development indicators, as well as the report of the Secretary General on the Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, as contained in document E/CN.3/2009/16. Such a discussion, we believe, will help to inform our understanding of the challenges of monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and make rapid progress in close the implementation gap.
5. The Group would like to continue working towards strengthening the Statistical Commission's mandate as provided by the General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B, 60/265 and the Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, given that this Commission is the intergovernmental focal point for elaboration, refinement of the review of the implementation of development indicators.
6. Mr. Chairman, the Group realizes the efforts of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators done in 2007,

as well as that of the United Nations Statistics Division, in its capacity as coordinator of the Expert Group. We call on the Commission and the Expert Group to redouble efforts to develop a coherent and integrated system of indicators, based on intergovernmental consensus, which, among other things, should give a clear and complete sense of progress on the implementation of all the MDGs and IADGs. We call also upon the Commission to gear up its work to that end, as we approach the target year of 2015 for the achievement of the MDGs.

7. Mr. Chairman, the goal of developing indicators for monitoring MDGs outcomes would depend on the scaling up of national statistical capacities. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators has made of the statistical capacity, one of its top priority areas of work. The Expert Group meeting in November 2006 has stressed the need of building national statistical capacities as a way to overcome the shortcomings in the availability and quality of data to monitor the MDGs.
8. It is important that the existing initiatives for developing national capacities and agency-country coordination and consultations be made more effective on the basis of national demands and priorities. The United Nations Statistical Division should tailor its statistical capacity-building programme to strengthen the institutional statistical capacities of countries on the basis of national demands and action priorities.
9. Mr. Chairman, the partner agencies and donors need to increase financial assistance for national statistical capacity building. As recommended by the Expert Group, the Statistical Division should accelerate its efforts in this regard. We would also like to reiterate that the international institutions including donor agencies should take the data of the national statistical organizations for their analysis rather than impute data on their own.
10. In addition, Mr. Chairman, the G77 and China would like to see more comprehensive treatment of the development of the MDG indicators in the reports submitted to the Commission on that important subject. In our view, the report contained in document E/CN.3/2009/16 does not reflect accurately how the Commission has worked towards the improvement of all MDG indicators, particularly to measure Goal 8, since it only refers to a few indicators to measure progress only at the national level pertaining this Goal and does not contain any recommendation to further enhance the development of indicators regarding the commitments made by developed countries on aid, trade, debt, and other important issues. We hope that future reports contain more detailed information on these matters and we urge the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Commission to continue working in that regard.

Thank you Mr. Chairman