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Speech by Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere
Chairman of the South Commission
at the Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC
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Mr. Chairman; Mr. Secretary-General; President Mugabe;
ECOSOC Members; Friends.

First, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the Members of ECOSOC for inviting me to the opening of this ECOSOC session this morning. It is indeed an honour to be invited to present to you the final Report of the South Commission in the presence of the United Nations Secretary General and all your distinguished members. Finally, I wish to express the appreciation of myself and my fellow-members of the South Commission for the arrangements which ECOSOC has made, with the assistance of UNCTAD, for an informal discussion today on the final Report of the South Commission.

Mr. Chairman. The work of the Commission was based on the realisation - born from day to day experience in our countries - that there is a South, and there is a North. The boundary between North and South is blurred, and there is great diversity of wealth, welfare, policies, and power within both classifications. The division has nothing to do with morality; nor does it imply hostility of one group to another. It is a tool of analysis made valid by a real and fundamental division between the weak and the strong, the developed and underdeveloped, and the powerful and powerless of

the world. And the usefulness of this analytic tool lies in the need to end this division for the benefit of all the world's people.

Thus, the purpose of the South Commission was firstly, to analyse the experience and the problems of development in the developing countries over the last three decades. Secondly, its task was to make recommendations for more hopeful future development strategies in the light of that experience and of the present and probable future trends in world affairs and relationships.

The South Commission's Report is therefore directed primarily - but not exclusively - at the developing countries whose conditions and problems inspired its establishment. This means their peoples, and their non-governmental organisations in all fields. And as such a Commission can only deal with development problems at a strategic level, the Report is directed especially at governments in the South but also in the North; it is they who are the national decision makers and who set the framework within which individuals and non-governmental organisations must operate.

Finally, The Report is directed at international organisations, and especially those in which developing countries have a vital interest, such as the United Nations and its family of associated organisations. This includes the International Financial Institutions which now play so important a role in their lives.

