



## The 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China: Six Decades of Unity and Future Progress

Friday 13 September 2024 | Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### **G77 and China: The 60th Anniversary Commemorative Dossier** Prepared by The President of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva) <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared and consolidated by Mr. KONG Sokheng, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Coordinator of the G77 and China at the expert level.

## 1. Concept Note of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### **Concept Note: The 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China: The Six Decades of Unity and Progress**

#### **Background**

The Group of 77 and China (G77 & China), established in 1964, has been a critical force in promoting the economic interests of the Global South and fostering South-South cooperation. As the Group marks the 60th anniversary of this influential coalition, it is an opportune moment to reflect on our achievements, address current challenges, and chart a course for future endeavors. This anniversary event will also serve as a platform to form a unified position for the Sixteenth UNCTAD Ministerial Conference (UNCTAD16) and beyond and have clear strategic thinking to drive discussions towards meeting development needs.,

This high-level commemoration will serve the purpose of commencing the preparatory Geneva work on the main interests of the Group in UNCTAD XVI and beyond, which will also benefit of inputs from forthcoming events such as the Summit of the Future which will mark the conversations on what comes after the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.

This event also offers the group an opportunity to revisit the four major transformations outlined in the Bridgetown Covenant, which are essential for progressing toward a more resilient, digital, and inclusive world of shared prosperity. These transformations include: diversifying economies to drive growth; fostering a more sustainable and resilient economic framework; enhancing the mechanisms for financing development; and revitalizing multilateralism to better address global challenges.

There is a growing perception that the multilateral system is not moving forward and serving its purposes, polarization is increasing, and developing members fall in the margins of the system due to shocks and crises. In this context, the Group of 77 and China can play a revitalizing role in realigning the system with its original objectives and enhance its contribution to the multilateral agenda.

#### **Event Overview**

- Date: Friday 13 September 2024
- Location: Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- Format: In-person (5 UN Languages Interpretation)
- Participants: Heads of Delegation of G77 & China (Geneva Chapter), former G77 & China Presidents, representatives from international organizations, think tanks, and external stakeholders.

## Objectives

1. Commemorate the 60-year journey of the G77 & China and its contributions to global trade and development.
2. Develop an ambassadorial joint statement to establish the group's position toward the UNCTAD16 and beyond.
3. Strengthen partnerships with other G77 & China chapters, as well as with relevant stakeholders and foster dialogue on future challenges and opportunities for the Group of 77 and China, Geneva Chapter.

## Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of the historical and current role of the G77 & China (Geneva Chapter) within the UNCTAD.
2. Identification of strategic priorities and collaborative actions for future engagements in adhering to the principles of the multilateralism.
3. Formulation of a joint ambassadorial statement to guide the G77 & China's position at the 16th UNCTAD Ministerial Conference.
4. Strengthened cooperations with external stakeholders and enhancing the group's capacity to address global challenges and realizing the 2030 agenda and beyond to leave no one behind.

## Way forward

To ensure a successful and interactive commemoration, the following logistical and coordinating arrangements will be considered and made:

- To seek endorsement from the Group's at Ambassadorial level, including a precise timeline;
- To form a diversified and representative drafting team for the joint ambassadorial statement;
- To coordinate with the UNCTAD Secretariat for venue and logistical support
- To prepare invitations for speakers, panelists, and participants, and
- To prepare for media coverage and documentation of the event proceedings, as well as professional photographers, and others.

## Contact Information

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## 2. Program of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### The 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China: Six Decades of Unity and Future Progress

Friday 13 September 2024 | Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

#### Tentative Program

**9:30-9:40**      **Arrival of all delegations to be accompanied by morning refreshment (Coffee & Tea)**

**9:50-10:00**      **Group photo with Secretary General of UNCTAD (Venue: Room XVII)**

All attending Dignitaries, Ambassadors and Distinguished Guests are invited to join this Group photo.

**10:00-12:00**      **Opening Ceremony**

**Moderator:** H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 & China (Geneva)

- ❖ Opening Remarks (max. 5 minutes) by:
  - H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 & China (Geneva)
  - Video of the 60th Anniversary (2.20 minutes)
  - H.E. Ms. Laura Gil Savastano, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, and President of the G77 & China (Vienna) (Pre-recorded Video)
  - Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- ❖ Special Remarks by: (max. 5 minutes each)
  - Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC
  - Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director-General of WTO
  - Mr. Daren Tang, Director-General of WIPO (Pre-recorded Video)

**To be followed by General Statements by Members** (max. 3 minutes each. Regional Coordinators will have priority over individual Members. In case the statement is not completed by 12:00, general statements will be made after the **second panel discussion at 15:30.**

**12:00-13:00 Panel Discussion 1 :**

#### **The Four Transformations for the Future: Building on the Bridgetown Covenant**

This panel aims to discuss the Group's long-standing positions on the need for an international economic framework that enables developing members to implement policies that transform and diversify their economies for the benefit of their populations, build resilience, and meet their national sustainability objectives.

**Modality:** Each panelist will have 5 minutes for remarks and/or presentations. Questions and discussion will follow the panelists' presentations during the interactive debate.

**Moderator:**

H.E Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal and LDC Coordinator (UNCTAD)

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Head of the Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, UNCTAD
2. Ms. Penelope Hawkins, OiC Debt and Development Finance Branch (DDFB), UNCTAD
3. Ms. Yuefen Li, Senior Advisor, South Centre
4. Mr. Vicente Yu, former G77 and China Environment Negotiator, Independent Consultant
5. H.E. Mr. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil and Host of COP 25

**Guiding questions:**

1. How can the Group boost its cohesive equilibrium in its approach to the three pillars of sustainability (social, economic and environmental)?
2. What aspects of the multilateral and international debate on financing for development can benefit from the Geneva Chapter's expertise engagement?
3. Which concrete alternatives can be proposed to articulate the call for bridging the digital and technological divide? What ideas can the Group discuss to strengthen and diversify the mechanisms for technology transfer?
4. Are there any normative aspects of the new technological advancements (e.g. AI, IoT) that require early reflection by the Group in terms of their impact on sustainable development?
5. The Bridgetown Covenant outlines bold vision for transforming economy, building resilience and reinvigorating multilateralism. What are the key challenges within the G77 and China, and how these challenges could be overcome? And how should the progress in the transformation should be measured?

**Interactive Debate**

**13:00-14:30: LUNCH BREAK | Authentic Saudi Café by the Delegation of Saudi Arabia**

**14:30-15:30 Panel Discussion 2 :**

**Looking ahead: G77 and China's Priorities on the Road to Sustainable Development**

This panel discussion aims to promote in-depth reflection towards the identification of the priorities of the Group of 77 and China for the coming years. As we face unprecedented global challenges, from climate change to cost of life and conflicts, it is crucial that the G77 and China determines a clear and coherent agenda that effectively addresses these issues. The discussions will contribute to outlining a roadmap that will enable the G77 countries and China to move forward together towards a more prosperous and equitable future.

**Modality:** Each panelist will have 5 minutes to answer moderator's questions which will be followed by an interactive debate.

**Moderator:**

H.E. Dr José R. Sánchez-Fung, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, and Coordinator of the SIDS

**Panelists:**

1. H.E. Mr. Febrían A. Ruddyard, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia and President Trade and Development Board
2. H.E. Mr. Laouali Labo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Niger and Coordinator of African Group
3. H.E. Mr. Alexander Yáñez Deleuze, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Venezuela and Coordinator of GRULAC
4. H.E. Mr. Tarek Md Ariful Islam, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Group
5. Mr. Miguel Bautista, Secretary of the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD

**Guiding questions:**

1. What are the priorities and policies that the G77 countries and China should implement to reposition themselves in the changing global economic landscape?
2. What are the main transformations we need to achieve in UNCTAD in order to design an organization that continues to respond to our priorities and interests?
3. How can the G77 and China work together to accelerate the path to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as address emerging challenges?
4. What is the vision of the G77 and China on strengthening multilateralism in global trade and development?
5. How can we recapture the spirit of '64 to overcome the challenges of a world transformed?

***Interactive Debate*****15:30-17:00      General Statements (*continuation if any*)****Session chaired by:**

H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 & China (Geneva)

**17:00-17:30      Adoption of the Joint Ambassadorial Statement of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva Chapter) & Closing Remarks**

The Ambassadors of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva) will officially adopt the Joint Ambassadorial Statement of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva Chapter) at this session.

**Moderator:** H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 & China (Geneva)

- Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 & China (Geneva) to declare the closing

<b>17:30-18:50</b>	<b>Reception<sup>2</sup> (Venue: Bar Serpent, Building E, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remarks H.E Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, and President of G77 &amp; China (Geneva) (3min)</li> <li>➤ Cake Cutting with toasting</li> <li>➤ To be followed by Cocktails Reception and Cultural Performances (Cambodian Blessing Dance)</li> </ul>
<b>18:50</b>	<b>End of Program</b>

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<sup>2</sup> Coffee refreshment and cocktail reception are supported by the contributions of the Members of the G77 and China (financial, food, drink and other forms of contribution) as well as partially by the G77 and China's trust fund).



## GROUP OF 77 & CHINA GENEVA

### PRESS RELEASE

BY PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA (GENEVA)

Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China

THEME: Six Decades of Unity and Future Progress

13 September 2024 | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**Geneva, 13 September 2024** –The Group of 77 and China commemorated its 60th anniversary today with a high-level event held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, under the leadership of Cambodia, Chair of the Geneva Chapter. Themed "Six Decades of Unity and Future Progress". The commemoration brought together Member States and distinguished dignitaries, including UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan, ITC Executive Director Pamela Cook Hamilton, and senior representatives from the WTO and WIPO. Other Chapters of the Group of 77 and China, were presented through video messages underscoring the solidarity and collective vision of the Global South in addressing with the persistent global challenges.

The celebration featured two high-level panel discussions that reflected on the Group's strategic future as it prepares for the upcoming UNCTAD 16 Conference and beyond. The discussions focused on the urgent need to transform multilateral commitments into tangible benefits for developing countries, addressing the persistent challenges of poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. Participants underscored the importance of reforming the architecture of the international financial system, bridging the digital and technological divides and the need for mainstream sustainable development strategies to ensure that no country is left behind. The panels reaffirmed the Group's commitment to leveraging the collective strength of the Global South to overcome emerging global issues such as climate change, digital divides, and economic disparities.

One of the key outcomes of the celebration was the adoption of the Joint Ambassadorial Statement, which reaffirms the guiding principles that have united the Group of 77 and China since its inception. The statement underscores the Group's unwavering commitment to addressing the three pillars of sustainability—economic, social, and environmental—in an integrated and holistic manner. This commitment reaffirms the commitments assumed by the Group's Ministers in the Third South Summit, held in Kampala, Uganda in January 2024, where Member States called for stronger international cooperation and equitable development solutions. The Joint Ambassadorial Statement also serves as the unified voice of the Global South, calling for continued collective action from developing nations in all international forums, particularly in the areas of trade, finance, and climate justice.

This 60th anniversary commemoration not only celebrated the historic achievements of the Group of 77 and China but also laid a strategic foundation for its future role in shaping global governance. With the active participation of international leaders, key stakeholders, and partners, the event highlighted the Group's enduring commitment to ensuring that the voices and interests of the Global South are not only heard but also integrated into the global development agenda. As the Group looks towards UNCTAD 16 and other key multilateral events, this milestone anniversary serves as a reaffirmation of its role in advocating for fairer, more equitable, and sustainable development pathways for all nations.



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA  
G E N E V A**

**JOINT AMBASSADORIAL STATEMENT  
OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA (GENEVA)  
AT THE 60TH YEARS ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE GROUP:  
SIX DECADES OF UNITY AND FUTURE PROGRESS**

13 September 2024 | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

1. We, the heads of delegations of the Group of 77 and China, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Group take this opportunity to recall that this group is founded on the spirit of solidarity and unity and as a group we reflect on our accomplishments and challenges since 1964;
2. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen our Group, advance our collective interests and achieve our common aspirations;
3. We also proudly recall that the Group was created as a manifestation of unity and solidarity to pursue our common goals for promoting a fairer and more equitable global economic order, built on multilateralism, to ensure sustainable development for all;

### **The World Since 1964**

4. We have collectively promoted initiatives that have evolved into institutions with diverse objectives, such as the Common Fund for Commodities and the South Centre.
5. We have also advanced ideas to address trade asymmetries that adversely affect commodity producers, such as the New International Economic Order, which was central and provided a framework for the North–South Dialogue summits from 1974 to 1981.
6. Furthermore, we underscore the importance of ensuring policy space for developing countries to address challenges and advance national development objectives based on their development, financial and trade needs. This concept is now widely used in normative and trade negotiations and is continually discussed and revisited;
7. Yet, despite these accomplishments and advances, we find that our world has evolved in ways the founders of the Group could not have anticipated. Recent geopolitical shifts, and multiple crises compel us to rethink the paths taken so far to attain sustainable development;

### **Looking to the Future**

8. We reaffirm the commitment made by the Group of 77 and China at the Third South Summit in Kampala to the spirit of solidarity and unity of the Group and continue to defend and promote our collective interests and genuine international cooperation for development;
9. We aim to revitalize the spirit of the Group of 77 and China by emphasizing solidarity and unity. Each of the crises we currently face impacts members of the Group distinctly and profoundly. The Geneva Chapter will intensify its efforts to work collectively, including with the other Chapters of

the Group of 77 and China, for the well-being and prosperity of the countries and peoples of the Global South, fostering mutually beneficial cooperation and a world order that is just, equitable, stable and peaceful and building a community of shared future for humankind. We reiterate the importance of pursuing global development and “win-win” cooperation on the basis of extensive consultations, joint contributions and shared benefits;

10. We recognize that the challenges we face today require us to adopt a forward-looking vision, one that not only surpasses the challenges of 1964 but also addresses the pressing issues highlighted in the Bridgetown Covenant. To effectively combat hunger and poverty, address the climate crisis, navigate rapid technological advancements, tackle trade and investment disruption, and achieve sustainable development, we must meticulously plan our journey for the next 60 years, ensuring that our strategies are as resilient and adaptable as the challenges themselves;
11. We reaffirm our firm rejection of the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We therefore call upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries;
12. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting our interests and strengthening our collective negotiating capacity. Through these efforts, we will continue to fulfil our commitments to the Bridgetown Covenant, and thus contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
13. We need to develop our economies through diversification. It is imperative to address technological and digital divides to balance the persisting asymmetries. It is also essential for our economies to find a way out of the commodity and economic dependence and build resilience to future crises. In the meantime, we remain steadfast in our commitment to securing fair and improved global access to our products;
14. We need to build up to a more sustainable and resilient economy. Continuing on the current path of irresponsible consumerism and unsustainable production will disproportionately harm the most vulnerable. Central to this effort is a commitment to capacity building and investment to support developing countries;
15. We need to improve how development is financed, ensuring that resources and knowledge are mobilized effectively for the implementation of policies and social technologies. The current financial architecture is dysfunctional, exacerbating inequality and failing to adequately address the needs of developing countries. Official development assistance is still key and indispensable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while South–South and triangular cooperation is a complement rather than a substitute to North–South cooperation for development. In this regard, we call for urgent reform of the international financial architecture, including the international financial institutions and their governance structure, to be equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to enhance their effectiveness, and to broaden and strengthen the voice, participation, and representation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

16. We stress the urgent need for strengthening and reinvigorating multilateralism, reinforcing and improving the United Nations-centred international system, to deal with the poly crisis the world is facing and address challenges of our time.
17. We recognize the diversity of the Group in terms of different levels of development. To that extent, we reiterate our commitment to work more diligently for an enabling international environment which can increase our trade, enhance the flow of foreign direct investment, create conditions conducive to the accumulation of capital, ease our debt burden, and allow us policy space to pursue our development objectives;
18. We request all members of the international community, the United Nations and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue providing much-needed developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, among them Palestine refugees, during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, including through the United Nations agencies present on the ground;
19. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizing the importance of comprehensively addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges facing our countries. We also underscore the importance of measuring the progress of sustainable development going beyond gross domestic product in a balanced and integrated manner;
20. We underline the urgent need for vigorous pursuit of timely and effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries in a coordinated and coherent manner engaging all key stakeholders. In this regard, national efforts of the least developed countries to achieve self-sustained development needs to be complemented by supportive global programs and technical cooperation through enhanced, predictable, definite and targeted support aimed at expanding their development opportunities. We also find it necessary to furnish UNCTAD with sufficient budgetary resources, including from various funds set up to assist the least developed countries in order to carry out various assessments and provide technical assistance.
21. We welcome The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, which was adopted by the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in May 2024 and is a new and ambitious ten-year action plan which has the potential to transform the economies of small island developing States and put them on a clear path towards sustainable development;
22. We recognize that for the last six decades, UNCTAD has been providing invaluable services to support the developing countries. It is, hence, our shared responsibility to ensure that UNCTAD remains strong and relevant in the changing world and also promotes the interest of the member States of the Group of 77 and China;
23. Furthermore, we consider it fundamental to strengthen UNCTAD capacity to fulfil its mandate and continue its crucial role in assisting member States, particularly developing countries, in achieving economic growth, sustainable development and enhancing international economic governance. We look forward to achieving substantial outcomes at the 16th session of UNCTAD, in a way that reflects the needs of the global South and accelerates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. We recognize that the global South bears a responsibility to create a better present and future for its people. Our contribution involves leveraging our collective voices to effectively strengthen and reform the multilateral institutions;
25. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, we commit to strive towards realizing our common goal of shared prosperity for all by leaving no one behind.

## 5. Opening Ceremony and General Statements

### *Statement of President of the G77 and China (Geneva)*

*(Check Against Delivery)*



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA  
G E N E V A**

**Keynote Remark at the Opening Ceremony  
by H.E. Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia  
and President of G77 and China (Geneva Chapter)**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Heads of International Organizations,  
Ambassadors, Delegates, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. As a President of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva Chapter), it is a profound honor to welcome all of you today as we gather to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China. I extend my warmest greetings to the Heads of International Organizations, ambassadors, and representatives of our esteemed Member States. Your presence here underscores the enduring solidarity and commitment that bind us together as a group and as a global community.
2. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva Chapter), I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Heads of International Organizations who will honor us with their keynote speeches today. Your participation and the outstanding remarks you have shared are invaluable for the Six Decades Commemoration, and they greatly enrich our discussions. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in advancing the goals of the Group of 77 and China.
3. For sixty years, the Group of 77 and China has stood as a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of unity and cooperation among developing countries. Our principles of equity, mutual respect, and collective action have guided us through the complex landscape of global politics and economics. We have worked tirelessly to champion the cause of development, striving to create a world where every nation, regardless of its size or power, can pursue its aspirations freely and equitably.
4. Today's commemoration is not just a moment of celebration; it is a time for reflection and recommitment. We honor the vision of our founding members, who dared to dream of a world anchored in fairness and solidarity. Over the past sixty years, we have made significant strides in realizing this vision, but our journey is far from over.

5. As we look around the world today, we see a landscape marked by both progress and profound challenges. The Global South continues to face significant hurdles—climate change, economic disparities, health crises, and digital and technological divides—all of which require our urgent attention and action. These challenges remind us of the importance of our collective voice and the need for a stronger, more united Group of 77 and China. It is through our solidarity that we can advocate for fairer global policies and ensure that the needs of our countries are not only heard but acted upon.
6. The Geneva Chapter of the Group of 77 and China has a unique role in this ongoing journey. It serves as a crucial platform for dialogue, negotiation, and action. As we move forward, we must leverage this platform to address emerging global challenges, to innovate, and to foster cooperation that transcends borders and brings tangible benefits to our peoples.
7. Today, I urge all of us to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that have guided our Group for the past six decades. Let us continue to work together with renewed strength and willpower, recognizing that our unity is our greatest asset. By standing together, we can build a world that reflects our shared values of fairness, equity, and justice.
8. Undertaking the role of the Group of 77 and China's Presidency in Geneva is a pride for Cambodia and my team. Despite our small team, we have a big heart and commitment. In this closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication to the ideals of the Group of 77 and China. Let this 60th Anniversary be a moment of inspiration and a call to action, reminding us of what we have achieved together and what we still have yet to accomplish.
9. With that spirit of unity and purpose, it is my great pleasure to officially declare open this 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Group of 77 and China.
10. Thank you, and I look forward to our productive discussions ahead.

-END-

***Statement of Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan***

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished ambassadors, delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends

In the annals of history, there are moments that transcend the mere passage of time, moments that mark a profound shift in the trajectory of human relations. The birth of the Group of 77 and China, six decades ago, was such a moment. It was a declaration of intent, a bold assertion of self-determination by nations emerging from the shadows of colonialism, seeking their rightful place in the global order.

As Secretary General of UNCTAD, it is my great honour to be called to open these anniversary celebrations. As I have said before – UNCTAD and the G77 and China are twin institutions –

born the same year, in the same city, of the same mother – the yearning for a fairer, more inclusive global economy.

The brotherhood of our institutions was underscored in our own 60th anniversary celebrations this June, which was highly attended by the heads of state and government of the G77 countries. It is hard to overstate the fact that, the trust that still exists between us, and that these twin anniversary celebrations have insisted on, is the most precious thing we have, in a context marked by a deep trust deficit in the multilateral arena.

**Your excellencies,**

In 1964, the world was a vastly different landscape. The scars of war were still raw, the Cold War cast a long shadow, and the global economy was skewed heavily in favor of the industrialized economies. Developing countries, accounting for a mere 15% of global GDP, found their voices muted, their aspirations marginalized – despite the fact that they represented 70% of all mankind.

It was against this backdrop that the G77 emerged, a collective voice for the Global South, a powerful instrument for change. The G77 was not simply a reaction to the prevailing order; it was a proactive force, a catalyst for change. It embodied the aspirations of billions, demanding a seat at the table where the rules of the game were being written.

The world has changed, but old challenges persist: 700 million people continue to live in extreme poverty in the developing countries. The G77 and China's commitment to the principles of solidarity and unity calls for a reassessment and rethinking of alternatives to provide its people with a better life in an ever-evolving global landscape.

But today, we also stand witness to the remarkable transformation that has unfolded over the past six decades. The developing world now accounts for 40% of global GDP, two-thirds of all economic growth, and the most dynamic trading bloc in the world, a testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and determination of its people.

This rise of the Global South is not merely an economic phenomenon; it is a geopolitical reality that demands a new paradigm of international cooperation. Global economic decentralization has not translated into global political decentralization – many global governance structures still inhabit the world that has not changed, not the one that has.

And as I said in our 60th anniversary celebrations, multipolarity is now a fact of life. Multipolarity it is not a choice. What is a choice is multilateralism.

Resolving this dialectic tension between multipolarity and multilateralism, between the pluriversal and the universal, is perhaps the biggest challenge of our generation.

Because multipolarity without multilateralism is a recipe for fragmentation, a descent into trade wars and no global cooperation.

It is a world where the voice of the developing countries that are at the heart of the G77's membership, mandate, and mission, risk being lost in the cacophony of competing interests. Today, our challenges are even greater than those we faced 60 years ago. Zero-sum protectionism threatens to unravel the rules-based international trading system. Many of the divides continue to widen, leaving millions behind in the race for progress. Climate change action and finance is still insufficient to comply with the Paris Agreement. And the spectre of low growth, fuelled by cascading crises, casts a long shadow over our shared future.

Multipolarity with multilateralism is a different path. One where decentralization of global economic and political power becomes a vehicle for inclusion. But this calls for a renewed form of multilateralism – with much greater representation, with much fairer rules in trade, investment, finance, and the environment, with much greater inclusivity in technological and digital advancements, and with much less inequity in international finance.

The G77 and China is uniquely positioned to lead this charge, because the G77 is no doubt the most diverse bloc of countries in the world. And this is not diversity as measured in numbers – this is diversity in all dimensions: religion, race, level of income, geographical position, political and economic systems. Now, more than ever, the world needs to learn to embrace this diversity.

The diplomats that have led this group for the past 60 years have been able to navigate the currents of difference, not despite, but because of their differences. The G77's 60 years of existence is a testament to the power of unity in diversity, of the universal in the pluriversal, of the multilateral in the multipolar.

**Your excellencies,**

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the G77, let us reaffirm our commitment to its founding principles – its commitment to multilateralism and to the UN charter. Let us work together to build a world where every nation has a voice and a role to play. A world where the fruits of globalization are shared. And where peace, prosperity, and sustainable development are not just lofty ideals, but lived realities for all.

The stakes are too high, the challenges are many, but these 60 years are a legacy of action, a road travelled in company, and above all – a testament for hope.

I thank you.

**Special Remarks by:**

***Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC***

60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China—Special Remarks, ITC Executive Director

Pamela Coke-Hamilton

[885 words/5.8 minutes]

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan,  
WTO Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,  
WIPO Director-General Daren Tang,  
His Excellency Suon Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia and  
President of the G77 and China,

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

All protocols observed.

Good morning to you all. I'm honoured to be here alongside you as we celebrate the achievements of the G77 and China, which are legion.

Sixty years ago, we lived in a very different world, one where the postwar international economic order was still in its relative infancy.

And already then, it was becoming increasingly apparent that it was not working as well as it should.

That realization led to the formation of UNCTAD, the Group of 77, and critical regional bodies like the Organisation of African Unity and the African Development Bank.

It also led to the formation of what was then known as the GATT International Trade Centre, and is now the ITC.

ITC came into being after it became clear that if exporters, especially in developing countries, were to benefit fully from a rules-based trading system, then they needed not just greater support.

They needed advocates and champions, who were not afraid to speak up when they saw that things needed to change.

That's the role we at ITC have sought to play ever since, and it's a vision that's guided us over 60 years as we've worked to make connected, sustainable, and inclusive trade a reality.

2024 is also the anniversary of another critical moment in our collective push for a better world.

It was 50 years ago that Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere called for a rethink in how the global economy worked—and urged the countries of the Global South to adopt a united front in making this possible.

They were among the frontrunners for a new international economic order, warning that unequal trading relationships and power dynamics would only hold us all back...

...and that equity, prosperity, and what we now know as sustainable development would only be possible through greater South-South cooperation and a radical change in global discourse.

These are truths that the G77 and China have embodied for sixty years, since that pivotal moment in June 1964 when the G77 put forward the Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries.

As an organization born alongside the G77, and which has been proud to work with its members for 60 years, we have much to thank them for.

For making clear to the world that a very different future is possible—even required—and that the global South must be in the driver's seat.

For showing that the countries of the global South are viable trading partners, including for one another.

For championing the adoption of the Generalized System of Preferences by key trading partners, and for making these a critical starting point for developing economies to gain better access to developed country markets.

Today, the G77 and China numbers over 130 countries, and it is a force to be reckoned with on the international stage, never shying away from speaking up for the marginalized and underserved.

It has been an advocate for new ideas and a fairer way of working, and has succeeded in placing a development agenda squarely in the context of the trade agenda, and within the wider international economic agenda.

It has achieved one milestone after the next, from the Charter of Algiers to the establishment of the Global System of Trade Preferences.

Today, thanks to the G77 and China's efforts, South-South cooperation is not just an ideal, but a reality.

From ASEAN's formation in 1967, to the Treaty of Asunción in 1991 that set up Mercosur, from the growth of China and India into economic powerhouses to the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area, we have seen South-South trade go from strength to strength.

You have much to be proud of. And as you enter the next chapter of your extraordinary journey, I encourage you to never lose sight of the principles that first inspired this group to emerge.

To keep using your platform, and your community, to make this vision of a new international economic order come alive.

To harness the full force of the digital economy in support of your small businesses, including through enhanced digital policies and a framework for greater digitalization.

To press for, and put in place, more services-based agreements, given the immense potential these hold for economic growth.

To never stop working towards greater regional integration, and to keep prioritizing value addition and retaining income within the global South.

To showcase what resilient, sustainable supply chains can look like, and to advocate for more equitable approaches to greening global trade, especially ahead of COP30 in Belém.

It was fifty years ago that Prime Minister Manley called for a new approach to governance that did not just pursue the “art of the possible,” but that also dared to seek the impossible.

That same can be said for the G77 and China, whose fearless commitment to chasing the art of the impossible is why this group is one of the world’s great success stories.

And ITC stands ready to work alongside you all as we keep pursuing the art of the impossible, together.

Thank you all, and my warmest congratulations.

***Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director-General of WTO***

Remarks by DDG Zhang of WTO at  
The 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China:  
The Six Decades of Unity and Future Progress  
Friday 13 September 2024 | Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends,

It is a great honor to join you in celebrating the 60th anniversary of G77 + China. Over these six decades, this Group has been a powerful force in global economic and social governance. Its advocacy for fair and equitable development, particularly for developing and least-developed countries, has been essential. Members of G77 + China have significantly shaped the global trade agenda and reinforced the WTO’s mission to create a more inclusive trading system. Their commitment to multilateralism has ensured that the perspectives and needs of developing countries remain central to global trade discussions.

As we mark this milestone, we must address the pressing challenges of our time—climate change, digital transformation, poverty, food security, and supply chain disruptions. These issues demand globally coordinated solutions. Trade can and must play a crucial role in tackling these challenges. To do so effectively, trade must become more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

Trade has been transformative, lifting millions out of poverty and fostering shared prosperity. However, many countries and communities still miss out on these benefits. To ensure that trade continues to drive global development, we need to reform it to be more inclusive. Developing countries, with their significant potential, should lead this new era of global trade.

Our goal is to make trade work for everyone. The WTO's World Trade Report 2024 underscores that expanding global value chains, lowering trade costs through digital advancements, and shifting towards a low-carbon economy present significant opportunities for low- and middle-income economies. It also highlights that when trade policies are complemented by domestic strategies—such as those addressing labor, education, and competition—the benefits of trade can be more broadly shared among workers and consumers.

Climate change is an urgent challenge that requires coordinated global action. We need multilateral efforts to address climate change effectively while ensuring that trade policies are both fair and inclusive. Such coordination will help achieve climate goals more efficiently and ensure that trade supports both environmental sustainability and equitable economic growth.

The digital transformation of trade brings both challenges and opportunities. While the digital divide persists, targeted investments in infrastructure and skills can help close this gap. The WTO's Digital Trade for Africa initiative demonstrates how we can support developing countries in leveraging the digital economy. Expanding digital trade can foster more inclusive economies and provide opportunities for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as for women and marginalized communities.

Building resilient supply chains is a key focus of ongoing international efforts. It provides developing countries, which have missed out on previous waves of globalization, the opportunity to better integrate into global supply chains and move up the value chain. This can enhance their economic participation and growth prospects.

Ladies and gentlemen, this week's WTO Public Forum, themed "Better Trade for a Better World," has highlighted the need for a multilateral trading system that is inclusive, forward-looking, and adaptable. The active engagement of developing countries is crucial for ensuring that trade works for everyone and contributes to shared prosperity, peace, and sustainable development. We look forward to their continued positive contributions in this ongoing process.

Thank you.

***H.E. Ms. Laura Gil Savastano, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia, and President of the G77 & China (Vienna) (Pre-recorded Video)***

***Mr. Daren Tang, Director-General of WIPO (Pre-recorded Video)***

## **General Statements by Coordinator and Members**

### **Vice-President of G77 and China by the Delegation of Peru**

Secretary General, Chairman of the G77 and China, distinguished guests, authorities, colleagues,

First of all, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to you and to all delegations for your solidarity and condolences in these very difficult moments, full of sorrow, following the sensitive death of Ambassador Ana Cecilia Gervasi, Permanent Representative of Peru to the International Organizations in Geneva.

As the first woman to lead the Diplomatic Service of our country, Ambassador Gervasi stood out for her commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in all areas. Her dedication and vocation of service to Peru leave an indelible mark on all of us who had the opportunity to work with her.

Likewise, her commitment to this organization was reflected in her assumption of the position of vice president of this group, so it is an honor for me to take the floor on the occasion of the commemoration of 6 decades of cooperation, unity and solidarity of the G77 and China, and we renew our vows to continue moving forward together in the search for a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

The current international scenario is complex and challenging, we are living a “permacrisis” as ECLAC calls it, where our countries are facing a series of impossible decisions, having to face the dire consequences of climate change, geopolitical tensions, higher cost of living, growing inequality between and within our countries, among others, with scarce resources.

Faced with this scenario, and the challenges that have preceded us, the united voice of the G77 and China has been fundamental in advocating for our interests and has achieved important advances.

However, the road ahead of us is still long and challenging, being a priority to accelerate efforts to fulfill the most important roadmap we have as humanity which is the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. If we do not take urgent action, 83% of the SDGs will not be met, so we need to refocus the path and accelerate the pace.

In this task, we also need to overcome obstacles that are long-standing demands of the group, such as the reform of the international financial architecture, a realistic solution to the debt problem, closing the digital divide, measuring sustainable development beyond GDP, moving away from commodity dependence, greater participation in global trade, among others.

Regarding the international financial architecture, it is clear that the model that emerged in the middle of the last century is no longer fit to help us counteract the multiple crises that afflict us, and its reform is urgent. We must also redouble our efforts to ensure that progress in global trade leaves no one behind, promoting policies that favor a more equitable distribution of economic benefits.

We would not like to conclude without highlighting the role of UNCTAD as an ally of the Global South, which has been able to amplify our voice, provide us with instruments for better decision-making and valuable cooperation. The role played by UNCTAD reinforces the importance of multilateralism to jointly face global challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Peru will remain firmly committed to the Group's mission of promoting sustainable development, social justice and equity in global trade, remembering that in our unity lies our strength.

Thank you very much.

### **APG Group, by the Delegation of Bangladesh**

Chair of G77 & China of Geneva Chapter Ambassador Suon Prasith,  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Madame Rebeca Grynsperg,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Panelists,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia Pacific Group.

1. At the outset, the APG aligns itself with the statement made by Cambodia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We join others in mourning and expressing our deepest condolences for our colleagues from Peru for sudden demise of Ambassador Gervaci Diaz.
2. It gives us immense pleasure to join the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of G77. We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for Cambodia, for all regional coordinators as well as for the Secretariat for their indulgence and hard-work towards arranging today's day-long celebration.
3. The group G-77 was born out of a necessity. It was a manifestation of unity and solidarity to pursue our common goals at a time when development was bypassing a major part of the globe. The world has undergone tremendous changes than it was sixty years ago. While we are

riding on the wave of globalization, we are also observing enhanced protectionism and fragmentation globally. Now we are experiencing challenging times, in particular the Least Developed Countries as well as the developing countries, who are disproportionately being affected from the persisting negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, conflicts, and the current multiple & cascading crises, increased pressure on food & energy, growing debt distress, and the ongoing adverse impacts of climate change to name a few. In different corners of the globe, people are being denied of their freedom, peace, and dignity like the people of Palestine, who are persecuted by the occupying forces in denial to their legitimate national aspirations to proclaim the right to self-determination.

4. We are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Group, at a time, when the spirit of multilateralism is dwindling. Though, there are flickering beacon of good intentions in the form of promises and good statements from the international community to support our development efforts, in reality we see little manifestations of those intentions. Instead of diminishing, the gap in financing for the Sustainable Development Goals alone in all developing countries, including LDCs, is increasing from that of 2015 when the Goals were adopted. The international community is constantly failing to act on the adequate supply of climate financing in contrary to the promises made. The interlocking crises that we are experiencing have reversed development gains of at least for a decade, undermining the efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs in developing countries, thus affecting development at all levels.

5. That is why the concerns that were with us, sixty years ago, are still with us. Furthermore, since the challenges of development have become more acute in an increasingly integrated globalized world, it is all the more imperative now that we remain united to advance our interest.

6. In view of the above, our Group wishes to highlight the followings:

Firstly, With a view to overcoming the cascading & multiple crises, restoring sustained and inclusive economic growth, achieving the SDGs, it is crucial to prioritize sustainable development and simultaneously foster structural changes to build a just, equitable and inclusive international economic and financial system.

Secondly, the provision of urgent technical and financial support to the developing countries by developed countries and multilateral development banks, including an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA), concessional finance; debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management etc. needs to be underscored;

Three, The work of the relevant international organization on the provision of emergency food supplies, to over 250 million people in food distress needs to be supported adequately. In this regard, necessary measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives have to be adopted;

Four, We underscore the importance of collective efforts to eradicate energy poverty, and seek to ensure an inclusive approach that addresses the disproportionate impact of energy poverty and provide support for energy transitions for developing countries;

Five, We underscore the importance of full implementation of the climate change agenda in accordance with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and

respective capabilities. In this regard, we urge the developed countries to fully deliver on the goal of at least \$100 billion per year urgently;

Six, We underscore the urgent promotion of technology transfer and capacity building as well as technological and scientific cooperation from developed countries to developing countries in order to foster sustainable development in its three dimensions and the full implementation of the 2030 agenda.

Finally, we have to make every effort to strengthen UNCTAD at a time when there is a move to weaken its capacity to assist our countries. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that UNCTAD remains strong and relevant in a changing world, and also promotes our interest.

7. In conclusion, as we celebrate our 60th anniversary, APG wishes to remind all of us that we should not be complacent of our successes. The G-77 must not live in the past. The test of G-77 would be how we can organize ourselves to build strategic partnership among us and between our development partners so that we can raise all boats towards our common goal-ensuring development for all.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **GRULAC Group, by the Delegation of Venezuela**

H.E. Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia and Chairman of the G77 and China (Geneva),

Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of UNCTAD,  
Deputy Director General of the WTO

Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO

Ms Pamela Coke-Hamilton, ITC Executive Director

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I begin this speech, as coordinator of GRULAC, by congratulating us on the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the G-77 + China. I would also like to extend warm greetings to the Secretary General of UNCTAD, to the Directors General of WTO, WIPO and ITC, to the permanent representatives gathered here and to our peoples, who must always be the true managers of the paths of history.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Kingdom of Cambodia for its efforts towards the presidency of the G-77 + China, which is nearing its conclusion this year. We are grateful for its permanent will and vocation for integration and its unwavering commitment to South-South cooperation, a vital aspect of our global community. We recognize the efforts and achievements that Cambodia has contributed to our Group of 77 + China and, therefore, to the United Nations and the peoples of the world.

As coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) during the second half of 2024, I would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the region's exemplary leadership within the Group of 77 + China during the last six (6) decades. Peru (1971-72), Mexico (1974-75 and 1983-84), Jamaica (1977-78 and 2005), Venezuela (1980-81 and 2002), Guatemala (1987),

Bolivia (1990 and 2014), Colombia (1993), Costa Rica (1996), Guyana (1999 and 2020), Antigua and Barbuda (2008), Argentina (2011), Ecuador 2017 and Cuba (2023) have served as Chair of the Group. Some even more than once (NOTE: THE YEARS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; THEY WILL NOT BE READ).

We have also contributed four (4) Secretaries General of UNCTAD: Mr Raul Prebisch (Argentina), Mr Manuel Perez-Guerrero (Venezuela), Mr Rubens Ricupero (Brazil) and Mrs Rebeca Gryspan (Costa Rica), who is also the first lady to hold the position. We have also had two Officers-in-Charge: Mr. Alister McIntyre (Grenada) and Mr. Carlos Fortin (Chile). It should be noted that Mr. Rubens Ricupero chaired three (3) UNCTAD Ministerial Conferences. Thus, the strong leadership of GRULAC in UNCTAD is not a coincidence. It reflects the region's deep-rooted understanding of the challenges and opportunities of trade and development. A recent example is the holding of the Global Supply Chain Forum in Barbados.

Finally, I would like to reiterate GRULAC's commitment to the G-77 + China and UNCTAD. They count on our governments, our peoples and our souls. I end this greeting with the words of Simón Bolívar, one of the greatest of America: "Let us make justice triumph and freedom will triumph."

Thank you very much.

#### **African Group, by the Delegation of Niger**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Mr. Coordinator of the G77 Group + China,  
Madam Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The Group would first like to congratulate Ambassador Prasith Suon, Coordinator of the G77 + China and his team for organizing this important anniversary.

We would also like to thank Madam Secretary-General of UNCTAD for her constant availability and unwavering commitment to supporting the Group.

Mr. President,  
2024 undoubtedly remains a historic year for the G77 and China as it marks the 60th anniversary of its creation.  
Launched in 1964, at the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the creation of the G77 and China represents a salient turning point in our history, as it marks for the countries of the South, the beginning of the existence of a common platform to influence certain international decisions in order to achieve common objectives that are more difficult to achieve individually.

The Group's unchanged and current objective remains the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation between developing countries on the international economic scene, the promotion of the establishment of a new international economic order and the constant need to advance the process of economic and social development in developing countries.

The merit of the Group of 77 + China, it must be said, undoubtedly lies in its vision of fair and equitable multilateral relations and in the commitment of its member states to the well-being of their peoples, including its foresight in promoting South-South Cooperation as an effective instrument to strengthen solidarity and unity among members and to complement the efforts of North-South Cooperation.

This 60th anniversary is an opportunity to reiterate the legitimate objectives of our group as an ideal tool to intervene decisively in multilateral diplomacy, and to strengthen the negotiating capacity of our countries as well as our will to defend multilateralism and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

Today, and in reference to the theme “Current Development Challenges: The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation” of the last G77+China Summit in September in Havana, the African Group remains of the view that a renewed commitment to a governance system based on science, technology and innovation is essential to identify problems and find effective solutions aimed at sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic development.

This is why the African Group believes that a new and more inclusive approach is needed to prioritize the development dimension in global processes so that developing countries can take advantage of the opportunities offered by current technological advances.

In other words, the Group must ensure that processes such as the Global Digital Compact, the Future Summit, the General Review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) and the Second World Summit for Social Development scheduled for November 2025 in Doha, contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs, while addressing the concerns, priorities and needs of developing countries in the field of technology.

Technology, it must be emphasized, can enable rapid transformations to close existing digital gaps and accelerate progress towards inclusive and sustainable development. And, to this end, there is a need to increase digital public investments that can be built and operated by both the public and private sectors, based on sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

The African Group also stresses that there is a need to strengthen existing mechanisms to discuss at UNCTAD such relevant topics as critical minerals essential to the energy transition and the need to decentralize the supply chains of these for an obvious reason, that of avoiding creating other cycles of dependence on basic products.

Thank you

## **LDC Group, by the Delegation of Nepal**

Chair of G77 & China of Geneva Chapter H.E. Ambassador Prasith Suon,  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Madame Rebeca Grynspan,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Panellists,  
Ladies and gentlemen.

1. On behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group, it is my honour to join in commemorating the 60th Anniversary of G77 and China.
2. The Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cambodia on behalf of G77 and China. We mourn the passing of Ambassador Ana Cecilia Gervaci Diaz, vice president of G77& China Group and extend our heartfelt condolences to our Peruvian colleagues.
3. The LDC Group appreciates member states and the UNCTAD secretariat for making meticulous preparations to commemorate this landmark occasion. On behalf of LDC group, we extend appreciations to the Permanent Missions of Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda and Zambia for the financial contribution to the Anniversary celebration.
4. G77 and China is a collective articulation of the development interests of the Global South in the spirit of unity, complementarity, fairness and solidarity. With 134 member states and over 80% world population, the group represents solid voice of global south.
5. The world has seen unprecedented changes since 1964. New challenges such as climate change, pandemics and disruptive technological change have become our common concerns. Over the years, many Members of the Group have achieved varying degrees of progress. This should be assessed from a unifying angle and the most vulnerable members should be kept at the core of the Group's endeavours.
6. The world is more prosperous today than in 1964, yet it is more unequal and divided. Fragmentation in multilateralism is increasing; and the most vulnerable countries and people have to bear the brunt. The impact of rising geopolitical conflict, climate change and digital divide is seen in the sectors fundamental to the human development, including health, security, energy and food. This impedes the achievement of SDGs. Many developing countries, including the LDCs are burdened by debt distress.
7. We the LDCs underline the need to align efforts to strengthen multilateralism, rule of law and ensure concerted efforts to fulfill the outcomes of the UN conferences, including the Doha Programme of Action, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and SDGs, effective resource mobilization.
8. We stress the urgent need to achieve sustainable and inclusive structural transformation through diversification, local value addition, access to predictable and affordable financing, just green transition, technology transfer, capacity building and meaningful integration into the

international trade system. Digitalization of economy for increased competitiveness and quality infrastructure should be given special focus.

9. We appeal development partners to fulfil all the commitments especially the ODA commitment of 0.7 per cent of ODA/gross national income (GNI) and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the US\$100 billions of climate finance per year which are pivotal for transition towards a low-emission, competitive and climate-resilient economy.

10. We should keep in mind that while we are witnessing great scientific revolutions, millions are still struggling for food, water and basic human dignity.

11. We underscore the need to transcend from traditional method of measuring progress on the basis of GDP and give adequate weightage to the underlying risks and vulnerabilities to better formulate strategies and policies. In this regard, LDCs should be provided with customized preferential supports before and after the graduation to ensure smooth, sustainable and irreversible graduation.

12. G77 and China has umbilical relationship with UNCTAD. We take this opportunity to commend the role of UNCTAD in supporting the Global South. We stress the UNCTAD needs to be strengthened with adequate resources and mandates as we see its relevance is ever-increasing. The LDCs group urges UNCTAD to enhance its assistance to the LDCs through existing and innovative programmes.

13. As we celebrate this 60th anniversary, it is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and recommit to the principles that guide us. G77 and China should be a force of convergence and complementarity. We should explore every avenue for South-South cooperation, South-North Cooperation and Triangular cooperation.

14. To conclude, LDCs remain committed to the cause of G77 and China. Different national situations among the group members should be opportunity for learning from each other. We will continue to increase our engagements for inclusive and just world order.

I thank you Mr. President.

### **Arab Group, by the Delegation of Palestine**

Your Excellency Ambassador of Cambodia, Coordinator of the Group of 77 and China in Geneva  
Ms. Secretary-General of UNCTAD madam Rebeca Grynspan  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, the Arab Group extends its sincere condolences to the Government and people of Peru and the Permanent Mission in Geneva on the passing of Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Diaz, Vice-Chair of the Group of 77 and China Chapter in Geneva.

The principles on which the Group of 77 and China was established are linked to the principles of international consensus, the goals and principles of the United Nations. These principles constitute the strongest pillars for protecting this world and the international multilateral system, its institutions, the system of international law, and joint cooperation, especially in light of the fierce attack on this system and its components such as UNCTAD.

The Arab Group is working to confront these trends by preserving the multilateral international system, and strengthening relations between our group and all our partners in the United Nations, on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, supporting the development agenda, and protecting the interests of the countries of the South and developing countries and their just causes to serve the peoples of our countries and the future of future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, we will work with you to enhance South-South cooperation and to complement the constructive initiatives to implement the 2030 Development Agenda, including the initiative related to development financing programs and solidarity through development, as a complement and not an alternative to North-South cooperation and joint tripartite cooperation, where the international community and development partners play a pivotal role in cooperating with developing countries and supporting them in implementing the development agenda in accordance with the mandate of the Bridgetown-Barbados Covenant.

Today, solidarity and cooperation among the countries of the South have a growing role in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, thanks to the remarkable achievements of many developing countries, in order to ensure that "no one is left behind", and we will do our utmost to make our work a success. We will not be an obstacle to the outcomes of UNCTAD's work despite the double standards we witness from partners and other groups when it comes to the Arab State of Palestine. The Arab Group focuses on many topics of UNCTAD's work, including climate change, food security, debt and poverty alleviation, capacity building and technical assistance in the field of investment, services and financing for development, as well as the issue of assisting the Palestinian people. Therefore, we emphasize the importance of strengthening the role of UNCTAD to implement the mandate entrusted to it and to support the Secretariat when necessary. The Arab Group congratulates His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia and the Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Geneva for their good work during the presidency and coordination and organization of this celebration. Thanks go to all the coordinators of the regional groups and member states of our mother group, the 77 and China. We congratulate all members of our large family, the 77 and China, the 134 countries, on this celebration of 60 years of giving, solidarity, cooperation and brotherhood. This family is multicultural and multilingual and rich in all its components, customs and traditions. We are proud of this affiliation with this group, which was established to help young countries build their national institutions after their independence from foreign colonial and colonial regimes. We congratulate Iraq on accepting its nomination to soon assume the presidency of the Group of 77 and China in New York, and we hope that everyone will support it in raising the voice of our mother group in all meetings at the United Nations headquarters in New York, as was the case when the Group of 77 and China was chaired by Arab countries such as Algeria, Egypt and Palestine. Finally, the Arab group adds its voice to the statements of

the regional groups to which our Arab countries belong (the African group, the Asia-Pacific group, the 77th mother group, and China in Geneva). Thank you.

### **SIDS Group, by the Delegation of Dominican Republic**

Thank you, Mr President, secretary general Grynspan, director Coke-Hamilton, DDG Zhang, dear colleagues.

The Dominican Republic delivers this statement on behalf of the SIDS Group.

Please allow me to express our Group's deepest condolences for the untimely passing away of our esteemed colleague ambassador Gervasi of Peru.

We gather today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China -having recently celebrated UNCTAD's. John Toye – a former director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and who also served as a director at UNCTAD - argues that “the identity of the G77 derives from its success in creating UNCTAD”. The motivation behind the decision to create UNCTAD appears equally relevant today.

Urgent problems in the intersection of trade and development demand global action. But the challenges facing the global economy today go beyond those existing six decades ago -mainly market access and the dismantling of tariff barriers. A current example is the latent threat of costly devastation resulting from the increasing magnitude and frequency of weather shocks affecting SIDS.

Therefore, much can be contributed by the Group of 77 and China -including via advocacy and concrete action. In that context, I am confident that UNCTAD can continue to serve as an instrument to advance economic development opportunities across the world.

Please allow me to congratulate ambassador SUON of Cambodia, an appreciated colleague and dear friend, for his dedication as president of the Group.

We are looking forward to the rich programme ahead of us today -the discussions will provide an opportunity to reflect about the past and contemplate ideas for the future.

Thank you, Mr President.

### **LLDC Group, by the Delegation of Botswana**

President of the Group of 77 & China

Secretary General

Distinguished Guest

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. On behalf of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) Group, it is both an honor and a privilege to address this historic gathering as we celebrate 60 years of the Group of 77 and

China. This significant milestone is a testament to our shared history of solidarity, collaboration, and common purpose in advancing the interests of the Global South.

2. Over these six decades, the Group of 77 and China has remained a steadfast platform for advocating for the collective interests of developing countries. For us, as Landlocked Developing Countries, this unity has been instrumental in raising awareness of the unique challenges we face due to our geographical constraints. With no direct access to seaports, we continue to grapple with higher transport and trade costs, limiting our ability to integrate fully into the global economy and achieve sustainable growth and development.
3. Yet, our presence here today reflects not only our shared challenges but also our shared hope for the future. The LLDC Group aligns firmly with the belief that through enhanced South-South cooperation, we can achieve greater connectivity, inclusivity, and resilience. Together, we have made considerable progress in advocating for the special needs of landlocked countries, notably through the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action which will soon come to an end as we will be adopting a new Programme of Action at a Conference scheduled to take place in Gaborone Botswana from 10-13 December 2024 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both of which underscore the importance of regional and global partnerships in addressing our structural vulnerabilities.
4. But while we celebrate the progress we have made, the path ahead remains arduous. The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and ongoing geopolitical tensions have exposed and exacerbated the fragilities of LLDCs. Recovery will require collective effort, innovative financing, and a commitment to ensure that no country is left behind. Our call today, as part of the broader Global South, is for a renewed focus on building the capacities of LLDCs in areas such as infrastructure development, digital transformation, climate resilience, and trade facilitation.
5. In this era of rapid technological advancements and shifting global paradigms, we must look forward with renewed vigor. The LLDC Group remains committed to working within the Group of 77 and China to ensure that our priorities are reflected in global dialogues and decision-making processes, particularly as we seek to recover from the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and build forward better. Unity has been our strength, and it will be the key to our future progress.
6. Excellencies, Let this anniversary not only be a moment of reflection but a call to action. We must continue to champion equitable and inclusive development, anchored in justice and fairness. The next decade of the Group of 77 and China will be defined by how we adapt to the challenges of today and seize the opportunities of tomorrow.
7. The LLDC Group reaffirms its commitment to cooperation, multilateralism, and the enduring values that have guided us over the last six decades.

I thank you.

## **CARICOM Group, by the Delegation of Jamaica**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

It is a pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Caribbean Community on this occasion. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the delegation of Cambodia, under the leadership of Ambassador Prasith Suon, on the excellent Chairmanship of our Group and for your effective stewardship of our work in UNCTAD as well as in making the preparations for this event.

CARICOM also expresses hearty congratulations to the Group of 77 and China on its 60th anniversary, a milestone which symbolizes the longstanding commitment of the Group to facilitate more effective access for developing countries to the global economy. The Group's strong voice in the multilateral arena has both underscored the aspirations of developing countries and allowed the Global South to make significant advancements toward achieving the sustainable development goals, and in the fulfilment of the mandate of UNCTAD.

We recognized that, for many developing countries, there remain significant challenges with achieving inclusive and sustainable development through trade, investment, finance, and technology. This is especially true for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Structurally Weak and Vulnerable Economies (SWVEs) and other countries of the Global South.

In this regard the CARICOM Group wishes to convey its deep appreciation for the Group's present and past leadership and the assistance provided over the years to ensure that G77 and China delegations and technical personnel are equipped with the relevant policy tools and afforded appropriate implementation mechanisms that serve to advance our collective development agenda, whether through policy research and analysis, or by developing the requisite technical and other capacities.

For CARICOM, the advancement of the sustainable development agenda of our Members remains at the forefront of our strategic thrust towards achieving regional economic growth and prosperity.

In this regard, we are pleased that the objectives of the Bridgetown Covenant and the Bridgetown Initiative 3.0, such as the eradication of poverty, climate justice and the reform of the international financial architecture, are reflected among the priorities of the Group and by extension that of UNCTAD. We, therefore, call for continued work and concerted action in resolving these challenges, which will require a multifaceted approach, bolstered by the contributions and commitment of the Group's membership.

Additionally, the Caribbean Community acknowledges and appreciates the Group's solidarity with and commitment to SIDS as reflected in the support for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) adopted by the Forth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Antigua and Barbuda and the outcomes from the Global Supply Chain Forum held in Barbados, which highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the integration of SIDS into the global trade architecture.

This support indeed embodies the Group's collective mantra of leaving no one behind. With your continued support, CARICOM is confident that it will see continued progress towards the

transformation of SIDS and SWVE economies, better positioning them to more effectively participate in and contribute to the global economic landscape.

It would be remiss of me not to touch briefly on the changing dynamics in our world today, owing to the ongoing geopolitical tensions, the triple planetary crises, the implications of globalisation and re-globalisation, the challenges and opportunities presented by a hyper digitalized global economy and frontier technologies and many other issues, some of which I have already expressed.

As the Group commemorates this very important milestone, may we recommit ourselves to finding effective solutions to confronting the harsh realities of a world in flux and in mitigating the potentially deleterious threats and impacts that these and other potential shocks to our economies may pose. We must, therefore, continue to forge ahead with hope and optimism, and remain committed to the promotion of inclusivity, unity and solidarity toward the ultimate attainment of our collective goals.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

### **Delegation of China**

Honorable Ambassador Suon of Cambodia,  
Honorable Secretary-General Grynspan,  
Honorable Deputy Director General Zhang Xiangchen,  
Honorable Executive Director Hamilton,  
Honorable Ambassador Ayebare of Uganda  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very glad to attend the meeting today. At first, Please allow me to send China's warmest congratulation to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the establishment of "G77&China", and our best wish for a successful commemoration event today.

6 decades ago, the Group was established on the first UN Conference on Trade and Development. After 60 years, the Group has achieved fruitful outcomes: we advocate the New International Economic Order, and facilitate the establishment of South Center and Common Fund for Commodities. developing countries will be more prepared to strengthen coordination to strengthen the international governance.

Colleagues,  
China has always been a firm supporter of the Group. China is dedicated to speak for all developing countries on the global stage, urges all illegal unilateral sanctions be lifted, and calls to boost the representation of the developing countries in reforming the international financial architecture.

China has always been strengthening economic cooperation with other developing countries. Platforms, including China International Import Expo, brings huge opportunities to expand the

South Countries' export to China. Rice from Cambodia, Alpaca fleece textiles from Peru and Cashews from Tanzania have become very popular among the Chinese consumers. China has always been strengthening the cooperation of Global South. China has provided development aid to over 160 countries and regions through multiple or bilateral channels, and proposed the Global Development Initiative to facilitate the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Dear Friends,

For the peace and development of the world, China proposed building together a Global Community of Shared Future, as well as the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative. In July, the 3rd Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was successfully concluded. It drew the blueprint for China to further deepen reform in an all-round way, and China's pursuit for modernization will surely bring greater opportunities to other developing countries. We will continue to work with members of the Group to realize the common prosperity for all.

Thank you!

### **Delegation of Indonesia**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- Indonesia aligns itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China, and the Asia-Pacific Group.
- I would like to join others in expressing our deepest condolences on the passing of the Ambassador of Peru – Mrs. Ana Cecilia Diaz.

Excellencies,

- First, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Suon and the organizing committee... for their efforts in arranging this important event.
    - and to all, whose contributions have enriched today's celebration.
  - Congratulations to all members of the Group of 77 and China on this occasion... the 60th anniversary of our group.
  - Reaching the age of 60 is a significant milestone.
  - While for many, turning 60 may signal the beginning of retirement... this is not the case for the G77.
  - On the contrary, with six decades of experience, the group has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and expertise that strengthens our capacity to face global challenges.
    - Born in Geneva, the G77 has, over the years, proven itself as a powerful collective voice... capable of shaping the global agenda.
  - In its 60 years, G77 has grown increasingly relevant, particularly in addressing new and upcoming challenges faced by developing countries. It is imperative that we continue to strengthen our common efforts to tackle these challenges.
- 
- In that spirit, I propose three key areas for collaboration:

- First, enhancing synergy within the Group.
  - In our diversity lies our strength. However, finding a common voice requires commitment.
  - We must be resolute in synergizing our efforts in combating pressing global problem... from poverty, inequality... to climate change
  - Ensuring that no one is left behind... including our unwavering support for Palestine to achieve its sustainable development
  
- This year, the G77 in Geneva established 3 working groups focused on digital, financing, and environmental issue..
  - These platforms for collaboration could be further enhanced, particularly as we prepare for UNCTAD XVI.
  
- Second, fostering stronger collaboration across all chapters of the Group and other stakeholders.
  - Multilateralism is inherently interconnected, progress in one area influences others.
  - To advance our collective interests, it is crucial that our efforts are well-coordinated across all chapters – whether in Paris, New York, Nairobi, Rome, or Vienna.
  - The political agenda in New York benefits from the technical expertise provided and implemented by Geneva.. as “Geneva is the kitchen that prepares the dinner served in New York” ... This synergy is vital.
  
- Third, strengthening the work of UNCTAD.
  - UNCTAD stands as a unique platform where cooperation is at the heart of its work.
  - Its three pillars - research, technical cooperation, consensus building - provide the tools we need to achieve our development goals...
  - UNCTAD can help us address pressing issues, such as FfD, digital divide.
  - It is up to us, the members, to revitalize UNCTAD and ensure its role to be a beacon for development.

Excellencies,

- G77 must continue to be the platform for collaboration.
  - Now is the time for stronger collaboration between the members of this Group.
  - To achieve our common goal and shared prosperity.

Thank you.

### **Delegation of Lao PDR**

Distinguished Delegates

As we gather today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, we reflect on six decades of solidarity, resilience, and progress. Since its inception, the Group of 77 and China has been a formidable force in advocating for the collective interests of developing countries, promoting economic cooperation, and striving for a more equitable global order.

Over the past sixty years, our Group has grown in strength and unity, becoming a vital voice for the Global South. We have made significant strides in addressing the challenges faced by developing countries, from advocating for fair trade practices to promoting sustainable development. Our efforts have been instrumental in shaping international policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of our member states.

Today, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the principles that have guided us since our formation: solidarity, unity, and cooperation. In the face of new and evolving global challenges, these principles remain as relevant as ever. We are dedicated to continuing our work in promoting the economic and social advancement of our countries, ensuring that no member is left behind.

As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, we recognize that the challenges before us require collective action and innovative solutions. The climate crisis, technological inequalities, and the need for sustainable development demand our immediate and sustained attention. We must harness our collective strength to address these issues, ensuring a prosperous and resilient future for all.

Looking ahead, we envision a future where the Group of 77 and China continues to be a beacon of hope and progress for the Global South. We aim to:

- Strengthen our economic cooperation and integration, reducing dependencies and building robust, diversified economies.
- Advocate for the democratization of international financial and trade institutions, ensuring that they serve the interests of all nations equitably.
- Promote technological advancement and digital inclusion, bridging the digital divide and empowering our populations.
- Champion the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, addressing the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

The spirit of the Group of 77 and China lies in our unity. As we celebrate this milestone, let us remember that our strength comes from our collective resolve. Together, we have the power to effect meaningful change and create a more just and equitable world.

In conclusion, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, let us renew our commitment to the values that have brought us this far. Let us work together, in solidarity and with determination, to build a brighter future for our countries and for the world.

### **Delegation of Kenya**

President of the Group of 77 and China, Geneva Chapter, Amb. SUON Prasith  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Ms. Rebeca Grynspar,  
Presidents of other G77 and China chapters  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. At the outset, allow me to express my profound appreciation to the delegation of Cambodia as the coordinator of our Group for excellently steering the organization of our Group's 60th anniversary. Indeed, it is a momentous occasion for us to reflect on where we have come from since the Group's establishment, the milestones we have accomplished, the challenges we have faced, the opportunities we have realized and the path we need to take in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

2. Kenya attaches great importance to the Group of 77 and China and it is for this reason that my delegation is pleased to be part of this historic ceremony to underscore the importance of solidarity and unity for our Group even as we continue forging for a common front.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

3. UNCTAD has been and continues to be the platform for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues of finance, investment, technology and sustainable development, which remain vital issues in the contemporary and dynamic economic dispensation.

4. Since the inception of UNCTAD and the Group of 77 and China, the world economy has witnessed tremendous changes which include the rise of the global south, growth of e-commerce and digital economy, strengthened regional integration, enhanced south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation as well as the largest reduction in poverty and hunger in human history.

5. On the flipside, these six decades have borne witness to ever-growing inequality within and among countries, growing irregular trends in trade and finance, and accelerating climate crisis. With all these negative impacts, developing countries including Kenya and which form the membership of our group, suffer the most.

6. The Bridgetown Covenant highlights three major challenges which we face as a globe and which affect mostly countries from the Global South. These challenges include accelerating climate change, widening digital divide and Unsustainable debt together with Inadequate development finance, which hinder the achievement of an inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable development, a goal that has remained elusive amidst the volatile global economic environment.

7. With these challenges and polycrises, the world has seemingly lost its capacity to recover inclusively from crises which underscores the need for us to forge a new development course that responds to the complex challenges of our time and addresses the systemic issues within the international development system. Developing Countries should therefore be at the forefront of this paradigm shift.

8. Therefore, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Group, we should commit to continue working together reaffirming our common aspirations, unity and solidarity that have brought the collective will of the Group to bear on the pursuit of common goals and the vision of fair and equitable multilateral relations for the benefit of our people so that no one is left behind.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

9. On this auspicious occasion I would like to inform that Permanent Representative designate for Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other International Organisations in Switzerland, Amb. Dr. Fancy Too has reported and is in

the process of preparing to present her credentials to both the Director General of UNOG and that of the WTO.

10. To this end, my delegation under her leadership assures the Group of 77 and China of its continued support and cooperation as we advance the interests of the Group not only within the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) but also within the wider multilateral governance system in Geneva.

I thank you.

### **Delegation of Brazil**

1. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the G77/China, we should remember that the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a permanent intergovernmental body in 1964 was born out of deep dissatisfaction among our countries regarding how international trade issues were being managed within global institutions. Brazil played a pivotal role during the first UNCTAD Conference, held from March to June 1964. The Brazilian delegation successfully translated the economic dimension of the Independent Foreign Policy, pioneered by former Chancellor Afonso Arinos, into proposals to reform the global commercial and financial systems. These reforms sought greater balance and fairness and were influenced by the ideas of Mr. Raúl Prebisch, the first Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and the renowned Brazilian economist Mr. Celso Furtado. Nearly sixty years later, in January 2024, Brazil was represented at the G77 and China Third South Summit by our current Chancellor, Ambassador Mauro Vieira. In Kampala, Uganda, our Heads of Delegation had the opportunity to reaffirm the principles of unity, solidarity, and cooperation, echoing the spirit of the G77 Ministerial Meeting in Algiers in October 1964.

2. To this day, UNCTAD remains the primary UN body responsible for addressing development in an integrated manner, focusing on trade, finance, investment, technology, business, and sustainable development. Our coordinated action in Geneva is crucial to strengthening UNCTAD's capacity, including its budgetary resources, to continue supporting developing countries in achieving their social and economic goals. But UNCTAD can do even more to enhance international economic governance in ways that reflect the needs of the Global South and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNCTAD's relevance stems from its highly qualified technical staff, comprehensive analyses on issues critical to developing nations (such as the developmental needs of the Palestinian people, artificial intelligence, digital empowerment, e-commerce, global supply chains, critical minerals, or biofuels), and the creation of practical tools for economic prosperity, such as the Diversification Index launched in 2017.

3. The challenges we face today urge us to combat hunger and poverty, mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis, address the digital and technological divide, and confront the new wave of protectionism emanating from the North, especially in the context of rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts. As underscored by the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva: we live in a world where over 700 million people still suffer from hunger, where wealth continues to concentrate in fewer hands, where sustainable development is increasingly at risk, and where global governance institutions perpetuate

historical injustices. Multiple forms of inequality lie at the heart of many problems afflicting people today.

4. Addressing these issues requires political will, and Brazil is calling for decisive action. In November, during the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil will launch a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, open to all countries, to eradicate hunger worldwide by the end of this decade and meet the commitments outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. Brazil calls for a strengthened multilateral system rooted in the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and international law. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the United Nations in 2025, we are calling for UN reform. The role of the General Assembly must be reinforced, including improved and intensified interaction with the Security Council. We need a UN Security Council that reflects the realities and social demands of the 21st century—one that is more effective, transparent in its working methods, and inclusive of underrepresented regions such as Africa, the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Brazil also calls for reform in the international financial architecture. The current dynamics only exacerbate inequality between and within countries. We must ensure that resources and knowledge are mobilized effectively to implement policies and social technologies. Developing countries need a significant increase in capital stock—from billions to trillions—through substantial investment flows from developed countries. We must also deconcentrate investments for the energy transition, directing them toward the Global South. Multilateral Development Banks can deliver better, bigger, and more effective financing. The World Bank's capacity to support low- and middle-income countries must be bolstered, with a clear framework for allocating scarce concessional resources to contribute to achieving the SDGs. We call for a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF and encourage its members with strong external positions to make additional voluntary contributions.

7. Brazil advocates for an inclusive, rules-based, non-discriminatory, fair, open, equitable, sustainable, and transparent multilateral trading system. We must ensure, through coordinated action at the WTO, a level playing field and fair competition by discouraging the rise of protectionism and persistent market-distorting practices, fostering a favorable trade and investment environment for all.

8. Furthermore, we should reinvigorate trade among ourselves. During UNCTAD XI, held in Brazil in 2004, the Third Round of GSTP Negotiations, known as the 'São Paulo Round,' was launched to expand the scope and enhance the tariff preferences of the scheme. The round concluded at the Foz do Iguaçu ministerial meeting in December 2010, reaching a 20 percent margin of preference on applied tariffs to goods listed in the concessions submitted by each participant. UNCTAD simulations suggest that implementing the São Paulo Protocol could yield significant net positive trade and welfare gains for our countries. Brazil calls on all G77/China members to join the São Paulo Round Protocol.

Thank you

## Delegation of Viet Nam

Mr. President Ambassador Suon Prasith,  
Madam Secretary General Rebeca Grynspan,  
Excellencies and distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, my Delegation extends our most sincere condolences to our colleagues from Peru Mission and Ambassador Gervaci Diaz's family for the sudden loss of Her Excellency.
2. It is a great honour for us to participate in the commemoration of the Group's 60th year anniversary. We would also want to take this opportunity to thank Cambodia Mission, the Secretariat as well as regional coordinators for their diligence and commitment in organising today's celebration.

Mr. President, Madam Secretary General,

3. Sixty years ago, the Group's founding fathers gathered at this Palais des Nations with an ambitious goal of creating a world of fairness, justice, and equality in which developing countries could have a level playing field with properous countries. This goal is part of the origins of UNCTAD and G77 and China. Two institutions' mandates may differ, but we were all founded in 1964 for advancing the development process, confronting and addressing the challenges faced by developing nations. Our Group was at first composed of 77 members but now stands at 134 members, which succeeded in becoming the voice of developing countries.
4. Since its creation, the organisation has established a platform for developing countries to express our concerns, defend and advance our mutual economic interests, increasing our joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic problems. Through collective action, the Group have acquired the capacity to influence the content of international discussions. Over time, this Group has broadened the focus beyond trade to encompass topics such as global governance, migration, climate change, intellectual property, and so on.
5. However, after 60 years, the Group is now facing various challenges that are questioning the group's capacity to address. We are commemorating the Group's anniversary at a time when the values of multilateral cooperation is fading while protectionism and fragmentism are growing, the world is witnessing ongoing geopolitical tensions and conflicts, adverse impacts of climate change and rapid technological advancements, trade and investment disruption, increasing debt distress... It is the time for us to recapture the spirit of the Group and always remain focused on the core value of solidarity and commitment to bring prosperity for all. Our unity and collective efforts should remain as the guiding principles in promoting our common interests.
6. This celebration is an occasion not only to reflect on the work of the Group, but also to look forward to medium- and long-term deadlines such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a member of the developing world, Vietnam shares the same aspiration and vision with other developing nations. Viet Nam reaffirms our full support for the Group of 77

and China and will further strengthen cooperation with other developing countries so as to help each other achieve faster development

I thank you, Mr. President!

## **Delegation of Syria**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to thank Cambodia for chairing the Group of 77 and China this year. We are confident in its wise management of the work of our group in light of the difficult circumstances we face. We also appreciate its efforts in the good and remarkable coordination of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the group.

I also seize the opportunity to congratulate the sisterly Republic of Iraq on accepting its nomination to assume the presidency of the Group of 77 and China in New York, wishing it success in this mission. We are fully confident that it will spare no effort in working to achieve the goals and interests of the countries of the group.

Mr. President,

The Group of 77 and China, which represents two-thirds of the member states of the United Nations, has played an important role on the international scene, and its importance has grown now more than ever, given the unprecedented economic challenges the world is witnessing, due to natural disasters and climate change, declining food and water security, economic inflation, rising commodity prices, and the energy crisis.

What makes matters worse for some countries in our group, including my country Syria, is that all of the above is accompanied by unilateral coercive measures imposed by some countries, which have had disastrous effects on the daily lives of all Syrians, deprived them of the most basic necessities of life, and limited the ability of state institutions to strengthen the economy, attract investment, and achieve development and well-being.

In this context, we look forward to the Group continuing to reject and condemn unilateral coercive measures in all their forms, including economic coercive measures against developing countries, and we stress the urgent need to demand their immediate cancellation, as they not only undermine the principles stipulated in the United Nations Charter and international law, but also leave negative and serious effects and repercussions on various areas of economic and social development in countries suffering from such measures.

Mr. President,

Multilateral cooperation is the way to overcome various global crises and challenges, ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals, meet development aspirations, and enhance development partnership. In this regard, we count on the Group's support for the Syrian state's efforts in reconstruction and returning to the path of development.

In conclusion, my country reiterates its commitment to the spirit of solidarity and cooperation on which the Group was founded, in order to enhance its role on the international scene and achieve the interests of all our peoples in achieving peace and sustainable development.

## **Delegation of Timor-Leste**

Excellency Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Excellency Mr. Daren Tang, Director-General of WIPO

Excellency Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC

Excellency Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, DDG of the WTO

Excellency Ambassador Prasith Suon, Chair of the G77 and China Group

Distinguished delegates (protocol observed)

At the outset, Timor-Leste would like to commend the dedication and hard work of our Chair, Ambassador Prasith Suon, and UNCTAD, for their excellent organization of this commemoration.

It is an honour for me to participate in the 60th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Group 77 and China by our pioneers at the first session of the UNCTAD. Over the last six decades, the world has experienced major political and economic transformation. Although many global challenges remain and have grown in complexity, the existence and advocacy of the Group in promoting collective economic interests on all major international economic issues within the UN system is steadfast.

Timor-Leste joined the Group in 2003, a year after the restoration of its independence. Since then, we have witnessed the strategic role of the Group, not only in promoting our common interests but also in increasing the joint negotiating capacity, representing the LDCs and developing countries, concerning important global issues.

The current global challenges, including the protracted conflicts and natural hazards, have disrupted the SDGs implementation, contribute to acute poverty, food scarcity and malnourishment, and negatively affected health and education among others, further exacerbating our vulnerabilities.

We can only overcome these challenges by reinforcing the implementation of the G77 and China's spirit reflected at the Third Summit in Kampala. The principle of solidarity and unity, continuing to defend and promote our collective interests and genuine international cooperation for development, are needed more than ever, to ensure sustainability and build resilience.

We have 7 years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, Timor-Leste endorses the UN Secretary-Generals' five recommendations to rescue the SDGs and to advance its implementation.

At the national level, Timor-Leste has taken necessary domestic approach to assure that its national policies across different sectors, particularly social, economic and environment, are coherent and aligned with the SDGs. Besides, we also view the importance of allocating an adequate funding to ensuring the progress and sustainability of the policy implementation.

Similarly, to unleash our economy potential, Timor-Leste has recently attained its full membership to the WTO which has helped leverage the ongoing institutional and legislative reforms, and improvements to the administrative capacity and infrastructure development. We believe that the integration within the regional and global trading system will bolster the

country's economic diversification and attract more cross-border business opportunities. This will further contribute to sustainable economic growth and improve the quality of life of our people.

Thank you and Timor-Leste looks forward to work closely with you all, in unity, for more concrete progress in addressing the challenges facing our countries.

### **Delegation of Sri Lanka**

Ambassador Suon Prasith President, Excellencies and colleagues,

We express condolences on the passing away of HE Ana Cecilia Gervasi Ambassador of Peru.

Mr President,

Sri Lanka joins the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Pacific group.

The global South is confronting unprecedented challenges including the after effects of the pandemic, climate change, food, energy crises and the global debt crisis, which threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 (G77) this year, the Group's core values enshrined in the Charter of Algiers adopted in 1964, of unity, complementarity, cooperation, and solidarity provide a strong foundation for us to work towards overcoming these challenges in a sustainable way.

The Group of 77 and UNCTAD were not only born together but they were part of the same endeavor. The membership of G77 has grown over the years testifying its continued relevance to developing countries in safeguarding and promoting their economic and social interests.

In this context, I am pleased to recall the convening of the Third South Summit of the G77 & China, in January 2024 in Kampala, in an international context characterized by multidimensional crises and new challenges.

Mr. President,

G77 and China Chapter in Geneva has come a long way overcoming many constraints and challenges. On this historic occasion, I am pleased to recall the memory of the late Dr. Gamani Corea of Sri Lanka, who was the chief architect of the resolution, which launched the Group of 77 at the conclusion of the First session of UNCTAD.

The work of the UNCTAD is imperative for the global South, in advancing the development agenda, for achieving real growth in the developing countries and for reinstating and strengthening multilateralism.

As a recent initiative, we acknowledge the work of thematic Working Groups (WGs) on the areas relating to financing for development, climate change and sustainability and digital economy and digitalization.

Mr. President,

The challenges for financing for development threatens both the achievement of the SDGs and the urgent climate action required to prevent environmental catastrophe. In this context, the

Geneva Chapter plays a pivotal role in supporting the development of innovative financing mechanisms and advocating for reforms in the global financial architecture. UNCTAD, with its expertise in trade and development, must work alongside the Group to address these financing challenges by promoting policies that create enabling environments for investment.

On the other hand, climate change poses a profound threat where communities are more vulnerable to its impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions. We must ensure that the Group can pursue sustainable pathways without being left behind in the global response to climate change. Our Group must therefore, continue to highlight the urgent need for developed nations to honor their commitments, ensuring that climate finance is accessible, predictable, and sufficient to meet the challenges faced by developing countries.

The digital economy and digitalization, present both opportunities and challenges for the Global South. We must work together to harness the full potential of digitalization for our growth and advancement.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka also wishes to highlight the need to coordinate the Chapters of the G77, with a view to advance the positions of the G77 in the UN system to achieve our collective goals.

It is only by our joint efforts that we can achieve these ambitions and development aspirations of our countries.

Thank you.

## **Delegation of Liberia**

*(Unofficial Statement)*

His Excellency Mr. Ambassador of Cambodia, Coordinator of the Group of 77,  
Madam Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, and attendees

My country joins its voice to the statements of the regional groups to which the Arab group belongs and the African group.

Allow me at the outset to extend, on my behalf, my thanks and appreciation to the Ambassador and Mission of Cambodia, Coordinator of the Group of Seventy-Seven (77), for their important role in preparing and organizing this celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of this group. Thanks are extended to everyone who contributed to organizing this important event.

The establishment of the Group of 77 came on 6/15/1964 after most of the developing countries gained their independence and began the stage of development and construction to achieve the hopes and aspirations of their peoples for progress and prosperity. These countries realized that there is no way to achieve these goals except through solidarity, cooperation and coordination of positions to form a negotiating force through which a balance can be achieved in international economic relations, and in a way that guarantees the interests of developing countries. The Group of 77 was able to play an effective role in every discussion of international

economic issues, whether within the framework of the multilateral international system represented in the United Nations and international organizations, or the North-South dialogue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the achievements of the Group of 77 through joint action, solidarity and coordination of positions within the international system, it is currently facing enormous economic, developmental and financial challenges due to geopolitical tensions and the dangers resulting from climate change, which constitute an additional threat to the development path, food insecurity, and record levels of debt that have made these countries late in their ability to achieve the sustainable development goals. Many of these countries have even become in a dilemma of choosing between servicing their public debt or investing in health, education and infrastructure. Which is what It calls for rapid, coordinated and creative action to address this dilemma.

The major development challenges we have referred to require more cooperation and solidarity from the countries of the Group of 77 to create a more just economic system that ensures that we do not fall behind and that it meets the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the group's countries for further development and growth.

In conclusion, we congratulate the Group of 77 on this anniversary, wishing it further progress and success.

Thank you

### **Delegation of Iran**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the very outset I thank you chair for the convening this august meeting. I would also appreciate our colleagues effort in preparing the draft Ambassadorial statement. Having said that I would like to touch upon some points as following:

Mr. Chairman,

As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), we reflect on our journey and reaffirm our commitment as stipulated in the draft statement to the principles that brought us together.

The Group of 77 was established in 1964 by 77 developing countries, signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" issued at the end of the first session of UNCTAD in Geneva. Our founding purpose was to promote the collective economic interests of developing nations and enhance our joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to solidarity and unity For six decades, our strength has been in our solidarity. Despite our diverse backgrounds, we have stood united in our pursuit of a more equitable global economic order. This unity has allowed us to amplify our voices on the world stage, advocating for: 1. Fair trade practices 2. Equitable access to global markets 3. Technology transfer 4. Sustainable development 5. Climate justice. Our collective voice has been instrumental in shaping global discourse on development issues and in promoting South-South cooperation.

On navigating contemporary challenges, we also recognize the evolving nature of global trade and development. In today's interconnected world, the Group of 77 and China must adapt to: - Rapid technological advancements - Climate change and environmental concerns - Shifting geopolitical dynamics - The aftermath of global health crises - Persistent inequality within and between nations We must navigate these challenges while maintaining our core principles of solidarity and mutual support.

Mr. Chairman,

It is imperative that we 1-Embrace innovation and digital transformation to bridge the technological divide 2. Advocate for climate finance and environmentally sustainable development practices 3. Promote inclusive economic growth that benefits all segments of our societies 4. Strengthen our capacity for collective bargaining in multilateral forums 5. Enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation to share knowledge and resources

Looking ahead as we move forward, the Group of 77 and China reaffirms its commitment to fostering a global economic system that works for all. Hence , we call upon the international community to: - Reform global financial institutions to better reflect the realities of the 21st century - Implement the Sustainable Development Goals with renewed vigor - Ensure that trade agreements are fair and considerate of developing countries' needs - Support capacity-building initiatives in developing nations .

Mr. Chairman,

I should recall one important issue here among others. We strongly reaffirm our opposition to all forms of unilateral economic coercive measures imposed on developing countries, including:

Unilateral sanctions, extraterritorial application of domestic laws and regulations as well as any other measures that violate international law. These actions not only contravene the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter but also pose a severe threat to the freedom of trade and investment. We would also emphasize the urgent need to eliminate such measures immediately.

We call upon the international community to recognize the detrimental effects of these coercive economic measures on developing nations and take swift and effective action to abolish their use. Also to uphold the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states. By doing so, we can foster a more equitable and cooperative global economic environment that respects the rights and development needs of all nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Concluding my words, I would emphasize that our collective journey over the past 60 years has shown that unity and solidarity can be powerful forces for change. As we face the challenges

of the future, we remain committed to working together, not just for the betterment of our individual nations, but for the prosperity of all developing countries and the creation of a more just and equitable world order. Together, we stand stronger. Together, we shape our future.

Thank you

### **Delegation of Myanmar**

- It is a great honour and pleasure for me to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the members of G77 and China as we celebrate the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Group today.
- I wish to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for the hard work and stewardship of His Excellency Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia, as chairman of Geneva Chapter of the Group.
- I am confident that Cambodia's strong and able leadership will achieve more prosperous outcomes for the group.
- Myanmar welcomes the joint ambassadorial statement of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva Chapter) to be adopted at today's 60th anniversary event.
- Since its inception in 1964, the G77 and China has been a group aiming to encourage international cooperation in the field of development, especially among developing countries.
- As it is the largest intergovernmental group of developing countries in the United Nations to promote collective economic interests and enhance joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations, we attach great importance to the cooperation network of the Group of 77 and China.
- Throughout the past years, we have witnessed the group has solidified South-South cooperation by putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action.
- It is also observed that the group has made headway towards in addressing development challenges of member countries by focusing on policy coordination, infrastructural connectivity, trade facilitation and people-to-people exchange.
- I believe that the continued and constructive dialogues, combined efforts of member states, while strengthening the collaboration with other chapters of the group, will bring further advancement, progress and achievements.
- Myanmar looks forward to contributing the work of the group and working closely together with all member states of G77 and China, both bilaterally and multilaterally, on a wide range of issues.

Thank you.

### **Delegation of Pakistan**

Chair of G77 & China of Geneva Chapter Ambassador Prasith Suon,  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Madame Rebeca Grynspar,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, we express our sincere condolences to our colleagues from Peru for the unfortunate demise of Ambassador Gervaci Diaz, who as Vice Chair of G77 and China was a source of strength and support for this group.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cambodia on behalf of the G77 and China and by Bangladesh on behalf of the APG.

On the historic occasion of the 60th anniversary of the G77 and China, we take this opportunity to commend the progress delivered by this Group as well as to renew our commitment to its shared vision. This moment not only marks six decades of our unity and cooperation but also reaffirms our commitment to a just, equitable, and sustainable global economic order.

Since its inception in 1964, G-77 and China has been a ray of hope for the Global South, ensuring that the voices of developing countries are heard on the global stage.

Over the past six decades, our group has made significant strides in addressing trade asymmetries, promoting sustainable development, and advancing South-South cooperation. Initiatives like the establishment of the New International Economic Order and advocating for the reflection of developing country priorities in the United Nations' Development Agenda highlight our commitment to equitable development and multilateralism.

As we reflect on our achievements, we must also acknowledge the evolving challenges.

Mr. Chair,

Today we stand at a crossroads, facing a confluence of global crises, including the impact of climate change, geopolitical conflict, food insecurity, and economic instability. Achieving the SDGs remains a distant dream for many of our nations. According to the 2024 SDG report, only 17 percent of SDGs are currently on target to be met and we are regressing on roughly half of them.

The widening gap between developed and developing nations requires us to redouble our efforts and take some bold steps.

Firstly, a comprehensive overhaul of the international financial architecture is vital to achieving the SDGs. This requires a fairer re-allocation of Special Drawing Rights, increase in concessional financing, the fulfilment of ODA targets, and a wide-ranging debt relief and restructuring mechanism.

Secondly, global cooperation through the fulfilment of climate finance commitments and transfer of green technology are pivotal to the achievement of the climate agenda. As we near COP 29, we must emphasize that the international community deliver on its target of mobilizing US\$ 100 billion per year for climate action.

Thirdly, we urgently need to bridge the digital divide. It is unacceptable that, in this day and age, the global south struggles to improve digital literacy, address digital fragmentation and develop inclusive digital policies to strengthen e-commerce for all. To this end, scaled up technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer is urgently needed.

Finally, UNCTAD's role as an institution for Global South interests needs to be revitalized. While its support has benefited many global south countries in navigating the complex global economic landscape, enhancing UNCTAD's capacity to fulfill its mandate is not just a priority but a necessity. We must ensure that it remains a robust and relevant institution capable of assisting developing countries in our pursuit of the SDGs.

To conclude, let us take this opportunity to renew our collective resolve, unity and cooperation to drive transformative change and to build a future that leaves no one behind.

I thank you.

## **Delegation of Ethiopia**

Mr. Chair,  
Madam Secretary General, Rebeca Grynsperg,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, let me join others before me to express my condolences on the untimely demise of Ambassador Ana Cecilia Diaz, PR of Peru.

It is an honour to address you today as we gather to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Group of 77 and China. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Suon Prasith, Permanent Representative of Cambodia and President of the Group for the excellent organization of this momentous occasion. Your dedication and hard work have brought us together to reflect on our shared journey, achievements and aspirations for the future.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the African Group statement delivered by Niger, the statement delivered by Nepal on behalf of the LDCs, and the statement delivered by Botswana on behalf of LLDCs.

This 60th anniversary offers us an opportunity to take stock and look back to move ahead. As the Group of 77 and China was established to promote the collective interests of developing countries in the global arena 6 decades ago, it has worked tirelessly to advocate for equitable development, sustainable economic growth and a just international order. We have successfully championed the rights of developing nations, ensuring that our voices are heard in critical discussions on trade, climate change and social justice. Our achievements are a testament to the power of solidarity and cooperation.

However, these past few years, we have been faced with various challenges ranging from COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted the normal functioning of open markets to global supply chain disruptions, debt crisis, inequality etc which has undermined our collective efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It is therefore clear that we need to do more, and we need to do more together.

Ethiopia, as a member of this group, has actively contributed to our shared goals and initiatives. We have engaged in various activities that promotes sustainable development and capacity building. Our commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity, addressing climate change and fostering regional cooperation reflects our dedication to the principles of Group of 77 and

China. As we look to the future, Ethiopia reaffirms its commitments to working collaboratively with all member states to address the pressing challenges we face and to build a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Let me stress on a couple of points that require our joint efforts:

1. We need to work together on retooling multilateral institutions to reflect the current economic realities so as developing countries can play an active and meaningful role in global political and financial governance.
2. Push for increasing development financing and debt relief to accommodate the legitimate interests of LDCs.

In conclusion, as we commemorate this significant mile stone, we call on all members to reaffirm our commitment to the principle that have united us for 60 years. Together we need to continue to advocate for the rights and needs of developing countries, ensuring that our voices resonate on the global stage.

I Thank you.

## **Delegation of Morocco**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Mr. President;  
Madam Secretary-General;  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors;  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, I would like, first of all, to express to you, Mr. President, my warmest thanks for your unwavering commitment and for the actions carried out throughout this year to ensure the cohesion of our Group and defend its interests.

Our thanks also go to Mrs. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, for her support in strengthening the contribution of the Geneva chapter in the work and activities of UNCTAD, as well as in global governance.

It is with great interest and real pleasure to participate today with you in this event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the creation of our Group, which today presents itself as an influential Grand Bloc within the UN, carrying a set of values for global governability, in a world unable to find viable solutions to multifaceted crises.

Today, it is clear to all that multilateralism, peace and not conflict, law as the basis of international relations, trade and finance at the service of humanity and not for the benefit of a powerful minority, are the values on which we must find consensus again if we want to achieve viability and stability.

And it is precisely these values that drive our group which, since its creation, has strived, within the framework of a common platform, to promote economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, in the spirit of solidarity and unity.

Thus, several programs and platforms have marked the evolution of our Group, in its search for cohesion, coordination and strengthening of its negotiation or cooperation capacities.

On the register of the Geneva Chapter, I take this opportunity to welcome the efforts of the presidency to revitalize the work of the chapter, in particular the development of the terms of reference relating to the thematic Working Groups, as well as the creation of three thematic groups, addressing issues of capital importance for our group and for the development agenda in general.

Mr. President,

In a difficult and complex international context, marked by the growing fragility of the world economy, geopolitical tensions, the deficit of global governance and the entanglement of multiple crises, such as the food and energy crises, it is important to work together, in a constructive spirit of consensus, to find answers to the questions of our time, overcome difficulties and build a common future.

In this context, my delegation would like to emphasize three essential points:

1. The importance of maintaining reflection and action for the codification of the working methods of our Group;
2. Taking into account, to do this, the outcomes of the third South Summit held in Kampala in January 2024, in particular those relating to respect for geographical parity and gender equality in the recruitment of staff, as well as strengthening coordination between all chapters, with a view to better harmonization of the positions of the G77 and China, as a homogeneous bloc and strong interlocutor of the countries of the South.
3. The relevance of strengthening a transparent and inclusive dialogue concerning the working methods within UNCTAD, on the basis of mutual trust, and cherishing the fundamental principles of consensus as the golden rule for the functioning of our Group.

In conclusion, I assure you, Mr. President, of the full support, cooperation and constructive commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco, in order to defend the interests and legitimate aspirations of our Group.

Thank you for your kind attention.

### **Delegation of Mozambique**

Chair of G77 & China of Geneva Chapter H.E. Ambassador  
Prasith Suon,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Panelists,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. On behalf of Mozambique, I have the honour to join in commemorating the momentous occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of G77 and China. This anniversary marks a significant milestone in our collective journey towards a more equitable and prosperous world.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cambodia on behalf of G77 and China and that of Nepal on behalf LDC Group.
3. We deeply regret the sudden loss of Ambassador **Ana Cecilia Gervaci Diaz**, Vice-President of the G77 and China Group and express our sincere condolences to the people and government of Peru, on this sad occasion.
4. The Group of 77, founded in 1964, emerged as a beacon of hope for developing nations, advocating for their interests and addressing the challenges they faced.
5. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, it is imperative that we reflect on the achievements of the G77 and China. Together, we have made tremendous strides in advancing the developmental agenda, promoting economic cooperation, and tackling pressing global issues.
6. Mozambique, as a proud member of the Group, has experienced first-hand, the positive impact of this alliance. Through our partnership, we have witnessed remarkable progress in areas, such as infrastructure development, agriculture, and human capital investment.
7. The G77 and China has provided us with a platform to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and forge lasting partnerships that have propelled our nation towards sustainable development.
8. However, as we celebrate our achievements, we must also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. The world is facing **unprecedented crises**, from the recent COVID-19 pandemic to climate change and inequality. It is in times like these that the unity and solidarity of the G77 and China become even more crucial.
9. We must continue to work together, leveraging our collective strengths, to address these global challenges, ensure that **no nation is left behind** and reach sustainable economic development.
10. During the celebrations of the UNCTAD 60th anniversary, in June of this year, there was a wide-ranging discussion on what is expected from this organization in the future. Technical assistance, especially for LDCs, emerged as the common denominator, as it can contribute to address vulnerabilities, improve competitiveness, empower people and integrate their economies into the global economy.
11. In closing, Mozambique reiterates its recognition to the role that UNCTAD has played in the past years, in support of and in close cooperation with the G77 and China.

I thank you for kind attention.

**Delegation of Ecuador**

His Excellency Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia and Chair of the G77 and China (Geneva),  
Mrs. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to express its most sincere and deep condolences to the Permanent Mission of Peru on the sensitive passing away of Ambassador Ana Cecilia Gervasi.

Today is an opportune occasion to highlight our impact on global multilateralism. Since its creation, the G77 and China has played a fundamental role in redefining the balance of power in the international arena, acting as a unified voice for developing countries.

Over six decades, we have been catalysts for change, advocating an inclusive approach in global negotiations and promoting a multilateral system that seeks a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. Through our joint action, we have shown that international cooperation is not only possible, but essential to meet global challenges effectively and fairly.

We can mention some of these challenges that we face as developing countries:

- The environmental crisis. The effects of climate change hit our nations the hardest, affecting our economies, infrastructures and, above all, our most vulnerable populations. These impacts highlight the need for concerted and coordinated action, where multilateralism plays an essential role in mobilizing global resources and strategies.
- Growing social inequality. The gap between the richest and the poorest continues to widen, exacerbated by the lack of access to fair and equitable opportunities. This inequality underlines the importance of a multilateral system that not only promotes economic development, but also addresses social disparities to ensure inclusive progress.
- Persistent economic and trade difficulties. Our countries are often at a disadvantage in global trade due to tariff barriers, unfair subsidies in developed countries, and lack of equitable access to international markets. This unbalanced economic and trade landscape highlights the need for reforms that guarantee fairer trading conditions for developing countries.

And what should be our response?

The key is unity. We must intensify our efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable future. We must reiterate our commitment to international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Pact for the Future, which provide a framework to face these challenges in a collaborative and effective manner, guaranteeing access to the necessary resources to meet them.

Ecuador is committed to remaining an active player within the G77 and China, working tirelessly to achieve consensus that benefits both our people and our planet. It is imperative that the Group strengthen its support within the United Nations to address threats to international peace and security, with particular emphasis on the fight against transnational organized crime and arms trafficking.

These scourges erode our institutions, promote inequality and undermine the prosperity of our peoples. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensure a stable environment in which our collective efforts can thrive.

The principles that have guided this Group since its creation—complementarity, cooperation and solidarity—are more relevant than ever. These values must continue to be our guiding light as we face together the challenges of the present and the future. Keeping these principles as our compass will allow us to move forward with unity and determination towards a more just and equitable future for all.

Thank you very much.

### **Delegation of Lesotho**

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR,

At the outset, Lesotho wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Secretary General of UNTACD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan for her insightful and invaluable Opening Remarks. We wish to also thank the speakers who delivered Special Remarks for their contributions to this landmark event.

We are honoured and privileged to join other Member States in commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China. We attach great importance to the Group and are of the strong view that, the Group still remains a vibrant and living entity, which concerns us all. Initially created to provide the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, the Group's influence has surpassed its objectives far beyond the expectations of many.

It has over the years played a major role in boosting the economic agenda of its members. For Lesotho, the G77 has served directly and indirectly, as a platform for facilitating personal ties between States and this has not just been helpful in reaching common objectives, but it has been essential to achieving significant development reforms among its members, and thereby reinforcing international cooperation, which remains indispensable in multilateral diplomacy.

Since its adoption in 1964, the fundamentals for establishing the Group still remain relevant, despite the current challenging times, where conflicts and humanitarian damage persist and global crises hindering the promotion of resilience, economic growth and sustainable development abound. It is in this sense, that my delegation wishes to recognise the excellent functioning and operating modalities of the work of the Group in various Chapters and particularly the Geneva Chapter, for their instrumental role in promoting policies and advancing diverse development ideas for the benefit of its members.

This commemorative session is therefore an opportunity for the members of the Group to take stock of the achievements and the challenges that lie ahead in the implementation of the Groups collective interests, globally and within our domestic jurisdictions.

Mr. Chair,

As we envisage the next 60 years of the Group, sustainability, solidarity and unity emerge as crucial and attainable goals for the Group. International diplomacy, consensus-building, reliable communication channels, and trust among the members have proved to be pivotal, as all these form the bedrock of the Group. The Group continues to work excellently in exploring ways and means of finding concrete solutions and strategies that advance its member`s development agenda, in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in tandem with the aspirations of UNTACD and its sister organizations.

I wish to conclude Chair, by reiterating our gratitude for the support provided by the Group of 77 and China to LDCs in various areas of development, and reaffirm our commitment and support to the Group. It is through initiatives like this that we can work towards a more inclusive, equitable, and just world. We look into -the future with optimism, as we continue to strive for unity and solidarity in reaching our collective economic interests.

I THANK YOU!

### **Delegation of Singapore**

Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we commemorate six decades of cooperation on an inclusive vision of development.

Despite an increasingly tumultuous geopolitical landscape and disruptions such as COVID-19, we have remained anchored by the core principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind.

We have proceeded with respect for the different circumstances of each of the seventy-eight states making up one of the largest groupings at the United Nations. This has allowed us to achieve agreement on landmark documents including the Bridgetown Covenant at UNCTAD16.

Looking ahead, Singapore remains committed to the pursuit of common objectives and understanding.

Thank you.

### **Delegation of Nigeria**

Ambassador Suon, Chair of the G77 and China Geneva chapter  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, permit me to add my voice to commiseration over the passing of the Peruvian Permanent Representative H.E Cecilia Diaz. May her soul continue to rest on in perfect peace.

We wish to congratulate the Secretariat and organizers for facilitating this occasion. The Nigeria delegation is honored to join this distinguished gathering in commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China. This occasion marks not just a moment of reflection, but also a celebration of our shared commitment to advancing the development aspirations of the Global South.

Nigeria takes this opportunity to express its profound gratitude to the Group for the steadfast dedication to fostering equitable and inclusive economic growth across developing nations. Indeed, this collaboration has rallied a platform for advocating for the interests of developing countries, ensuring that our voices are heard in shaping the global economic and trade agenda.

As we commemorate this occasion, Nigeria reaffirms its unwavering support for the core objectives of the G77 and China in championing the cause of sustainable development, poverty eradication, and economic justice. We stand united in the belief that only through solidarity, cooperation, and multilateralism can we overcome the structural challenges that continue to impede our progress.

Today, we are faced with unprecedented global challenges from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to climate change, growing inequalities and disruptions in the global trading system. These challenges disproportionately affect developing nations threatening the achievement of the SDGs. Our partnership is even more crucial than ever. We therefore must work together to ensure that no country is left behind as we pursue a path to recovery and sustainable development. In addition, we emphasize the need to enhance South-South cooperation to foster inclusive growth and collectively empower our nations to achieve sustainable development and renewed commitment to multilateralism, recognizing that our collective prosperity depends on the development of all nations.

In conclusion, Nigeria remains resolute in its commitment to the shared vision of the G77 and China. Together, we will continue to build a future that is just, inclusive, and prosperous for all.

Thank you.

## **Delegation of Burkina Faso**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Mr. President

Dear Colleague Ambassadors

Dear Delegates

The delegation of Burkina Faso would like to begin by paying tribute to the memory of Ambassador Anna Cecilia and expressing its sympathy to the Mission of Peru.

My delegation thanks you for the daily efforts made for the smooth running of our Group and the various speakers for their introductory remarks.

Burkina Faso associates itself with the Statements delivered by Niger, Nepal and Botswana respectively on behalf of the African Group, the LDCs and the landlocked developing countries.

Mr. President

In establishing the Group of 77, we wanted, in a spirit of solidarity, to promote our economic interests, to constitute a platform for defending our common positions within international bodies and to take charge of the challenges faced by the countries of the South.

On the occasion of this 60th anniversary, it should be emphasized that our Group has undoubtedly grown, both in terms of the number of its members and its importance in the global political chessboard. This is why we welcome the positive results achieved so far and would like to urge all members to maintain this momentum.

Mr. President,

The future path will only be built serenely by relying on the levers of economic diversification, strengthening the productive capacities of our respective States and taking advantage of the new opportunities offered by digital technology.

In this sense, capacity building, technology transfer, sharing of experiences and know-how in the areas determined by national development benchmarks are important benchmarks for the full participation of countries of the South in world trade and for addressing sustainable development challenges.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to reaffirm its commitment to the principles that guided the creation of the G77 and its commitment to an inclusive and transparent multilateral system that makes major global challenges its hobbyhorse and the priorities of developing countries an anchor point.

In this regard, we strongly hope that the various international instruments being developed, whether within the framework of the Summit of the Future or the Global Digital Compact, take into account the priorities of LDCs by integrating them in a systematic and systemic manner. In this spirit, it is important to refer to the objectives and actions provided for in the Doha Development Agenda, which undoubtedly constitute a good basis for establishing robust, resilient economies in our countries that are integrated into the international system.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all the members of our Group for their joint efforts and wish us all a happy anniversary.

Thank you.

### **Delegation of Lebanon**

H.E. Ms. Rebecca Grynspan

Secretary General of UNCTAD

H.E. Ambassador Prasith Suon Permanent Representative of Cambodia and Chair of the Geneva Chapter of the G77 and China

Distinguished delegates

At the outset, allow me to express our sincere condolences to the Permanent Mission of Peru for the passing away of H.E. Ambassador Ana Cecilia Gervasi Dias. May she rest in peace.

Lebanon aligns itself with the statements made by Group of 77 and China, Asia Pacific Group and the Arab Group.

Mr. Chair,

Six decades ago, the global scene has witnessed the emergence of the nucleus of a group of countries united by a common goal, which subsequently has become one of the largest governmental groups and the most representative of developing and least developed countries in the UN system.

The G77 and China has always played a crucial role in shaping global policies and advocating for the collective interests of its members, particularly in the means of fostering fair global economy, inclusive approach to sustainable development, and equitable international trading system.

Mr. Chair,

As Lebanon is a co-founding, proud and active member of the G77, it highly commends the collective efforts exerted by the group to harmonize the views of its members on the global economic issues that affect the future of development and prosperity of our nations.

It is crucial for the G77 and China to demonstrate that developing countries are capable of keeping pace with the new economic trends, e-commerce, digital economy and emerging technological developments for good. Consequently, the developing countries are required more than ever before to intensify their internal development

efforts in order to be more integrated in the international economy through maintaining good governance, economic diversification, promoting competitiveness and practicing positive negotiation processes.

Lebanon emphasizes the need for the Group to continue its efforts, hand in hand with UNCTAD, to meet the challenges arising in our changing world, through reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG's, tackling the adverse effects of climate change collectively, and promoting food and water security among other emerging issues.

Lebanon highly value the Group's unwavering support to Palestine and the Palestinian people who are facing multifaceted crises as a result of the ongoing occupation and aggressions of the occupying power. We urge G77 and China to continue its efforts of solidarity towards the rights of the Palestinian people.

On the other hand, the process of sustainable development wouldn't be balanced with the absence of the concerted efforts of all fractions of the international community within the framework of multilateralism. It is crucial that developed countries and international financial organizations reaffirm their commitments in financing for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership. The developed countries and developing countries should also work hand in hand to mitigate the digital divide and revitalize direct foreign investments in a time where new technologies and artificial intelligence have become primary drivers of the global economic growth.

Mr. Chair,

G77 and China should never cease to contribute to strengthening UNCTAD's role and backing its tireless efforts in supporting developing countries and achieving international economic balance. In this context, since we are approaching UNCTAD 16 conference, we look forward to a pivotal role for G77 and China at the conference, as we know it, to ensure that the voices of developing countries are heard and that the emerging challenges in trade and development are well addressed.

In conclusion, the G77 and China should remain a powerful unified voice for developing countries on the global stage. Through collective action, collaboration, and advocacy, the interests of our nations would always be well represented, and the path toward sustainable development would be accessible to all.

Thank you.

### **Delegation of Algeria**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Thank you Mr. President, H.E. Ambassador of Cambodia and Coordinator of the Group of 77 and China;

H.E. Secretary-General of the United Nations for Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors;

I would like, first of all, to join my predecessors in presenting my sincere condolences to the Permanent Mission of Peru following the death of Ambassador Ms. Ana Cecilia Gerbassi.

I also join my voice in presenting my congratulations to all the Permanent Representatives of the member countries of the Group of 77 and China, on this happy occasion, reiterating Algeria's unwavering commitment to promoting the shared interests and common priorities of our group.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This ceremony marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of our Group, which has since then been an important force for proposals on the issues facing the Global South. Its adaptation to the current changes, with the valuable assistance of UNCTAD, which I am pleased to salute, Madam Secretary General, the definition of the collective objectives to be achieved, particularly through the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, constitute a remarkable manifestation of this. As you know, the results remain below the ambitions that motivated us when the Group was created in 1964, or when the international community defined the SDGs, aimed at eradicating poverty, stimulating economic growth and responding, in the most effective way possible, to the socio-economic needs of our populations.

The radical transformations that the world is currently going through, characterized in particular by unbalanced global economic and financial governance, geopolitical tensions, cyclical economic crises, the digital divide, the destabilizing effects of climate change and migratory flows, call on us all to act, together and now, according to both proactive bilateral and multilateral approaches. Thus, with a view to consolidating cooperation ties and the

tradition of solidarity with developing countries, Algeria took the decision in February 2020 to set up the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development. This body's mission is to provide the necessary support, particularly for the benefit of African countries, in their socio-economic development efforts. Some cooperation and assistance projects are already underway, while others are under study. On this occasion, I would also like to recall that Algeria has already taken decisions in line with this same commitment to South-South cooperation. These decisions included, among other things, the cancellation of all debts owed to it by certain developing countries. This decision reflects its unwavering conviction that debt is a major obstacle to financing socio-economic development and that its relief should be among the priorities of international cooperation in order to preserve the sovereignty of States as well as the resilience of their economies in the face of multiple economic shocks.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm Algeria's continued commitment to advocating the just causes of our Group in all international forums. My country will spare no effort to ensure that our voice is heard with the aim of the advent of international regulation that effectively meets the aspirations of our peoples.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### **Delegation of India**

*(Transcribed via audio recording)*

Respected G77 Chair, Ambassador SUON Prasith,  
Secretary General of UNCTAD, Madame Rebeca Grynspan,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentleman,

We would firstly like to join others in expressing our deepest condolences for the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Ambassador Gervasi Diaz at Lima, Peru. A much-respected colleague for diplomats across the world, and especially here in Geneva.

Mr. Chair,

India aligns itself with the statement made by Cambodia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group.

We are pleased to join the 60th anniversary commemoration. We thank Cambodia and the Secretariat for their hard work to organize it.

On this occasion we fondly recall how the group has grown to now include 134 members, which brings together the global south across diverse geographies, economies, regions and political systems.

During these 60 years the Group has had significant success in working on priorities of the Group, namely eradication of poverty, finding innovative solutions towards mobilizing financing for development, reforming the international financial architecture, facilitating South-South cooperation, promoting cooperation on science, technology and innovation, and protecting the planet for present and future generations.

These priorities were well reflected in the outcome of the G20 presidency which India hosted in 2023. We focused on addressing the challenges related to sustainable development, financing development, reform of the international financial architecture, addressing debt vulnerability, and deploying digital public infrastructure.

India has always supported capacity building and development for all partners from the Global South by sharing its development experience through the Indian technical and economical cooperation on the high-tech program, which now extends 260 partnered countries for training and capacity building courses across 200 premium engineering institutions.

On the technology front, India's vaccine initiative supported more than 100 countries by providing India manufactured vaccines during the pandemic as well as sharing the common platform to enable more effective vaccination campaigns.

India stands ready to share its experiences in digital public infrastructure for providing scalable, secure and inclusive solutions for making governance more efficient, inclusive, faster and transparent. India's experience shows that a diverse and populous country can embrace democracy to achieve human-centric, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, India reaffirms its commitment to continue to work towards to objectives of the Group for ensuring development for all.

I thank you.

## **Delegation of Saudi Arabia**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you

The Kingdom emphasizes the importance of investing in clean energy technology, which will facilitate a fair and comprehensive transition to clean energy, as the Kingdom works within the framework of the circular carbon economy that contributes to reducing carbon emissions.

It stresses the importance of enhancing international cooperation, which is a key enabler for achieving global climate goals, especially in the field of innovation, research and development, to promote clean energy technologies and achieve net zero emissions ambitions, as sustainability is a driving force for growth and progress, and the Kingdom strives to integrate economic, social and environmental aspects into development initiatives.

The Kingdom shares with the world the challenges they face in achieving the sustainable development goals, including environmental challenges, and is working in this direction through several initiatives, including the Green Middle East Initiative and the Green Saudi Arabia Initiative, which contribute to achieving global targets to combat climate change, in addition to announcing the establishment of a global water organization aimed at developing and integrating the efforts of countries and organizations to ensure the sustainability of water

resources, enhancing opportunities for everyone to access them in order to address water challenges in a comprehensive manner. The Kingdom is making all efforts within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and is working within Vision 2030 to protect lands and natural resources, and avoid the causes of land degradation and desertification, and looks forward to hosting the member states of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Riyadh this year. It is also committed to international cooperation to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

Thank you

## **Delegation of Uganda**

Your Excellency Suon Prasith, the Permanent Representative of Cambodia and President of the G77 + China Geneva Chapter,  
Ms Rebeca Grynsper, Secretary of UNCTAD;  
Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

It is my great honor and privilege to address you today as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China. This occasion not only marks six decades of partnership but also reflects the strength, resilience, and unity of the Global South in its quest for justice, equality, and sustainable development.

The establishment of both the G77 and UNCTAD in 1964 was not just timely, but essential. At that time, developing countries were grappling with immense challenges—economic marginalization, inequality in the global trading system, and limited opportunities for growth and development. In response, the G77 emerged as a unified voice for the Global South, while UNCTAD was founded to address the systemic imbalances in international trade, development, and investment.

Yet, we continue after 60 years of our group's existence, to yearn for a revitalized multilateral system capable of adequately addressing current and emerging global challenges. The G77 & China, together with UNCTAD therefore remain central to galvanising support to developing countries to urgently address contemporary global challenges, including poverty, hunger, debt, the digital divide and climate change.

We firmly believe that multilateralism remains a fundamental and crucial mechanism for addressing our common challenges together as nations in solidarity. It is critical that the Group of 77 and China remains united in its pursuit of collective interests at the United Nations.

In the intergovernmental processes at the United Nations, we must ensure that priorities of the Group are promoted and defended. We are at an inflection point in the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, having crossed the halfway point with overall progress in the attainment of the sustainable development and falling short of the expectations.

So an important and urgent part of the conversation going forward, should be on the most effective actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development and about how to enhance coherence between national development strategies and the global economic processes.

There are therefore high expectations of the outcome of the Summit for the Future, later this September on the international community's ability to convert aspirations into concrete actions.

I to note the growing significance of south-south economic cooperation and integration to global actions to advance the SDGs. Developing countries are increasingly turning to one another for partnership in regional trade, investment and financial, motivated in part by challenges presented by the world economy dominated by the north rich countries which continue to ignore the needs of developing countries. The South-South cooperation is an expression of growing economic strength by the global South, intra-south trade, outflows of foreign direct investment, increased choices and voice.

South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South Cooperation. It is driven by the demand, capabilities, best practices and diversified cultures of developing countries and their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and development.

Setting the path towards the realization of leaving no one behind requires that as a group, we remain united in our demand to the international community to support developing Countries to urgently address the global challenges, in particular; poverty, hunger, digital divide and climate change.

Finally, we should continue to work collectively to ensure we strengthen multilateralism it and achieve an international economic order that is just and equitable as envisaged 60 years ago at the founding of the Group.

Happy Anniversary to the Group of 77 and China!

I thank you!

### **Delegation of State of Palestine**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good day to you all in 2019. His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas began his speech at the United Nations Headquarters in New York when the State of Palestine assumed the presidency of the Group of 77 and China as follows :

Beginning of the quote :

“It is undoubtedly a tremendous task and a great responsibility that the State of Palestine will bear with all humility, sincerity and dedication, along with commitment and strong determination to defend the interests of the Group and strengthen the positions of its member states in the United Nations. I assure you that the State of Palestine will spare no effort in ensuring collective action to build on what the Group has accomplished over the past 55 years“.

End of quote

Palestine fulfilled its moral and professional duty during our presidency of the Group of 77 and China. We did not marginalize any member and did not give up any request submitted by any member state. We negotiated on all political, social, economic and cultural issues without

exception. We fulfilled the pledge to serve everyone, I repeat, serve everyone without any exception, the 134 members of the G77 and China even those countries that do not recognize the existence of Palestine on the international map or those with which we do not have diplomatic relations. We have fulfilled our duty without any delay. For this, ladies Gentlemen, Palestine asks everyone to respect this principle on which this group was built: unity, solidarity, cooperation and collaboration to serve all member states and not to leave anyone behind.

Ladies and gentlemen, people are the true wealth of nations, and achieving true and sustainable development is only achieved when the options that enable people to participate fully and freely in all their life issues are expanded. Sustainable human development is development for and by the people, and the right to development is a right that we seek to achieve and enhance, along with all human rights stipulated in the principles of international law and other references and basic documents of the Group of 77 and China.

In this regard, we must also ensure that this right is guaranteed and protected for peoples under colonial and foreign occupation in accordance with the decisions of the group, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in accordance with the provisions of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Here we warn everyone that Palestine must not be an exception .

Congratulations to His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia and all members of the Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia for organizing this important event and we appreciate their good work during the presidency. We also congratulate all the regional coordinators and all 134 member states of our big family, 77 and China, on this celebration of 60 years of unity, solidarity and excellent work to serve our peoples and the prosperity of our countries.

Finally, we would like to extend our congratulations to our brothers in brotherly Iraq who will assume the presidency of the Group of 77 and China in New York in 2025, wishing them all the best and success .

The State of Palestine joins its voice to the statements of all the regional groups to which we belong: 77 and China, the Arab Group, Asia Pacific and as an observer in the African Group. We renew our condolences to the Mission of Peru on the passing of Ambassador Ana Diaz. May her soul rest in peace.

Thank you

### **Delegation of Bahrain**

Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia, Coordinator of the Group of 77 and China in Geneva,  
Madam Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We express our condolences to the Republic of Peru on the passing of the Permanent Representative of Peru, Her Excellency Ambassador Gervaci Diaz.

At the outset, my country's delegation would like to add its voice to the statement made on behalf of the Arab Group and the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia

and the Cambodian Mission for their distinguished efforts during the presidency and organizing this celebration. We also extend our thanks and congratulations to all the regional coordinators and member states of the Group of 77 and China.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is honored to participate in this historic occasion, celebrating 60 years of solidarity, cooperation and commitment to the principles of the Group of 77 and China. The establishment of our group is intertwined with the values of international cooperation, respect for sovereignty and promotion of development goals, which are the principles that guided us in building a multilateral system based on mutual respect and equality.

On this occasion, the Kingdom of Bahrain renews its commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also look forward to strengthening our partnerships within the Group of 77 and China and working closely with UNCTAD to ensure that the needs and voices of the countries of the Global South are addressed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## **Delegation of Cuba**

*(Unofficial Translation)*

Dear Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Distinguished representatives of the ICC, WIPO and WTO,  
Excellent Chairs of the Group of 77 and China chapters in New York and Geneva,  
Dear Ambassadors and delegates,

The Group of 77 and China represents, in the architecture of international relations, a key instrument for building a multilateral system that supports 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. It has reaffirmed itself as one of the most important international actors, as a fundamental interlocutor.

It was a great honour for Cuba to assume the presidency of the Group of 77 plus China in New York in January 2023, at a time of important international challenges. We did so under difficult economic conditions due to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States.

In this context, we appreciate the Group's firm position against the unilateral coercive measures applied against several of our members, including the blockade of Cuba and the arbitrary and unjustified permanence of the country on the unilateral list of alleged state sponsors of terrorism by the United States.

The Cuban presidency of the G-77 essentially proposed to strengthen the principles on which the Group is based, such as solidarity and unity. With this fundamental objective, a Summit of Heads of State and Government of our group was successfully held in Havana in September 2023, focused on "current development challenges: the role of science, technology and innovation."

Likewise, the Third South Summit, held in January of this year in Kampala, Uganda, was an excellent opportunity to meet again and adopt a platform document to guide us in our common objectives.

The preparatory process for the XVI UNCTAD Ministerial Conference to be held in 2025 is approaching. This is another opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to UNCTAD, to implement the adopted ministerial mandates, in particular the Bridgetown Agreement, and to defend the interests of the Group with unity, solidarity and cooperation.

Our collective effort is essential to continue advancing on the path to the place we deserve and need in the current international context.

Thank you very much!

## 6. Closing Ceremony and Remarks by Secretary-General of UNCTAD and President

### *Statement of Secretary-General of UNCTAD*

#### **Speech by Rebeca Grynspan (3min) UNCTAD Secretary General**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished ambassadors, delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

As we draw the curtains on the celebration of the G77's 60th anniversary, I am filled with a profound sense of optimism. The echoes of our discussions, the insights shared, and the collective wisdom that has been in this room over the past few days will undoubtedly influence our common future.

In the spirit of our opening ceremony, where we reflected on the G77's and China's remarkable journey from its inception to the present day, today, we stand at the cusp of a new era. An era where the Global South is poised to build new bridges, bring new ideas, and open new partnerships that reshape our global community.

Throughout this gathering, we have delved into the complexities of our times. We brainstormed on innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges of our world, from climate change to the digital divide, from sustainable development to the reform of global governance institutions.

The Bridgetown Covenant, with its four transformations, has served as a guiding light in our deliberations. The discussions surrounding the Bridgetown Covenant have opened doors to exciting opportunities. We have explored concrete ways to strengthen our collective approach to sustainability, identified avenues to leverage the Geneva Chapter's expertise in financing for development, and charted a course to empower our citizens and economies through digital technologies.

Already on the road to UNCTAD's next ministerial conference next year, these discussions will inspire our work across our three pillars, as we seek to revitalize our intergovernmental machinery, technical cooperation, and research and analysis. The deliberations these last few days will be key to build bridges and ensure ever greater consensus across our universal membership. The opportunities and challenges voiced will inform the future toolkit of our technical cooperation projects, the foresight and brainstorming debates will make us think of new methods and new ideas for our upcoming research.

The requests and important suggestions you made directly to UNCTAD will help us build a better and stronger organization, and your support and encouraging words have definitely already doubled our commitment and engagement towards our common objectives.

The G77 is uniquely positioned to be a constructive voice and lead the change towards a renewed multilateralism that is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of the Global South and its people. This is very clear in the very successful Joint Ambassadorial Statement adopted this week in this forum.

Your excellencies,

In closing, let us reaffirm our commitment to the founding principles of the G77. Let us continue to work together, to leverage our diversity as a source of strength, and to build a world where every nation has a voice and a role to play. The journey ahead may be fraught with challenges but armed with the spirit of unity and the collective wisdom of this remarkable group, I am confident that we will prevail.

Thank you.

### ***Statement of President of the G77 and China (Geneva)***

*(Check Against Delivery)*



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA  
G E N E V A**

**Remarks at the Closing Ceremony  
by H.E. Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia  
and President of G77 and China (Geneva Chapter)**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. As we come to the close of this remarkable celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of you.
2. **At the outset**, this commemoration would be not fruitful and successful without a proper planning and participation of all key stakeholders. They are deserved for recognition and appreciation.
3. **First**, I want to thank our members for their active participation and invaluable contributions throughout today's discussions. Your engagement and insights have been instrumental in making this commemoration a true reflection of our shared goals and aspirations. It is your commitment that keeps the spirit of our Group alive and propels us forward. It is important to reflect what is already committed and how much we did implement the existing outcomes, and it is more important to be forward-looking of the Global South especially for the upcoming UNCTAD Conference and beyond.
4. **Second**, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our esteemed speakers and moderators for their proactive contributions. Your expertise and dedication have enriched our dialogue and underscored the importance of unity and cooperation in addressing the challenges facing the Global South.

5. Today's discussions reaffirm our commitment as the Group of 77 and China to advocate for the interests of the Global South, to shape the global agenda in a more sustainable and inclusive manner, and to ensure that no one is left behind. Together, we will continue to strive for a world that is fairer, more equitable, and more just for all.
6. **Third**, I would also like to express my highest appreciation to the task force members and working group members, led by Cambodia's team (Mr. KONG Sokheng, Counsellor), for their outstanding efforts in organizing this productive and successful celebration. Your hard work and dedication are truly commendable and have contributed immensely to the success of this event.
7. **Last but not the least**, a special thanks would also go to the Ambassador Febrian Ruddyard of Indonesia and his colleagues (Especially Ms. Sofia and Mr. Jhendra) for their exceptional contribution in producing the short video(s) that highlighted our shared journey and aspirations. I am also deeply grateful to the UNCTAD Secretariat team and all members who have supported Cambodia throughout our Presidency and it will be a continuity. Your support and solidarity are invaluable and a testament to the spirit of cooperation that defines our Group.
8. As we look to the future, I hope to see continued support for Cambodia for the remainder of our Presidency, and for next year's Presidency of Peru and beyond. Let us carry forward the momentum of today's discussions and continue to champion the cause of the Global South.
9. Finally, let us cheer for the Group and the Global South! Please give a big round of applause to the Future of G77 and the Global South!
10. Thank you all once again for your participation and contributions. I look forward to our continued collaboration and to achieving even greater heights together.
11. See you all at the Cocktail Reception with a diversity of the G77 and China's cuisine and cultural abundant. Our cocktail will be in front of this room at the Bar Serpent from 5:30-6:50pm.

Thank you.

## 7. Cocktail Reception: Statement of President of G77 and China

*(Check Against Delivery)*



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA  
G E N E V A**

**Welcome Remarks**

**at the Cocktail Reception for the 60th Anniversary Commemoration**

**by H.E. Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia  
and President of G77 and China (Geneva Chapter)**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to all of you.
2. It is a great honor and privilege for me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone here this evening, especially to Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan for joining us on this special occasion.

3. Secretary-General, we are truly grateful for your presence and your unwavering support for the Group of 77 and China. I believe our colleagues would be happy to hear your remark at this special occasion. May I now invite you to share a few words with us?

**[Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan's Remarks for 1 minute]**

4. Thank you, Secretary-General Grynspan, for your insightful and inspiring remarks. Your words continue to motivate us as we work towards our shared goals of a more just and equitable world.
5. Now, let me take a moment to extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed participants this evening. Your presence here signifies the solidarity and unity that define our Group. It is truly wonderful to see so many friends and colleagues gathered here to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China.
6. This evening's cocktail reception is made possible by the generous contributions of our Members and the Trust Fund. We have more than 10 Members from different regions of the Groups bringing their foods, sweets and drinks. I believe you all well love them. In addition, it is also a good opportunity to have Anniversary Cake delivered by the Mission of China.
7. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Missions of Peru and Indonesia for their invaluable contributions to this event. From the delicious food to the thoughtful arrangements, your efforts have truly made this celebration memorable. It is once again highly appreciated.
8. Before having a traditional dance by our Cambodian community in Geneva, may I invite SG, Regional Coordinator and Amb of China to the front to have a cake cutting celebration?

**[Cake Cutting Process]**

9. Thank you for the lovely cake. Everyone can enjoy the cake after the performance. May I draw you all's attention to the 3 minutes performance of Cambodia. We are proudly presenting our **Cambodian Blessing Dance**, or **Robam Choun Por** in Khmer language.

***Description of the Dance:***

- Cambodian Blessing Dance, or Robam Choun Por in Khmer language, is traditionally presented at the beginning of a ceremony or special occasion in Cambodia.
  - This dance is performed by a group of young Khmer girls in odd numbers (3 – 5 or 7 persons) to wish for good health, happiness, prosperity and success. The female dancers are well-dressed with Khmer Classical Royal Ballet costumes to symbolize the Devata (angel). Each carries a golden goblet filled with flower blossoms inside, like jasmine, lotus or Romdoul. In Khmer's perspective, blossoms are represented for the blessings from the Gods. With charming and elegant movements, dancers hold the golden goblets, pluck the blossoms and gently toss them toward the audience with honor and wishful blessing.
  - It is a dance that the Khmer royal family created as a special treasure to show the high dignity of Khmer dancers, the work of Queen Sisowath Kosamak, created from Khmer traditional dance. During the reign of King Norodom Sihanouk, this dance was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 7 November 2003.
10. Thank you to the performers for that excellent and wonderful display of talent and culture. It was truly a delight to witness such a beautiful expression of our shared heritage.

11. Now, before we enjoy the rest of the evening and without further ado, please join me in raising a glass to toast to our continued friendship, cooperation, and success. Let us enjoy the evening, the good food, and the great company.

12. Cheers to the Group of 77 and China, and cheers to the Global South!  
Thank you, and please enjoy the rest of the evening.

*-End-*

## 8. List of Biographies

### Biography of Keynote Speakers, Moderators and Panellists



**H.E Mr. SUON Prasith,**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations (Economy and Trade) in Geneva, and President of the Group of 77 and China (Geneva)

Ambassador Prasith Suon has served the Ministry of Commerce, Royal Government of Cambodia, for over twenty-six years since 1997. Appointed as Ambassador in 2023, he previously served as Counsellor to the Permanent Mission from 2021. Mr. Suon has led Cambodia's negotiation groups for ASEAN-Japan and ASEAN-Hong Kong FTAs and played a key role in Mekong Regional Cooperation and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

As Director of the Americas (2014-2016), he negotiated the inclusion of travel bags under the U.S. GSP, attracting over 40 manufacturers to Cambodia, and engaged in the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the USTR. From 2008 to 2014, Mr. Suon contributed to the Cambodia Trade Integration Strategies and managed the EIF Project. He has collaborated with numerous international partners, including the World Bank, ADB, and UN agencies.

In addition to his government roles, he has been a visiting lecturer at the Royal School of Administration and the Royal University of Law and Economics. His career began as a Marketing Executive at Apsara Media Group in 1996.

**Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**

Secretary-General of United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Rebeca Grynspan, an economist and former Vice-President of Costa Rica, was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in September 2021, becoming the first woman to hold this position in the institution's 60-year history. Her extensive career in international development and diplomacy has been marked by significant contributions to global policy and advocacy.



Before her current role, Grynspan served as Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, where she also held the position of Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. She was Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998, during which she also served as Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs, and Deputy Finance Minister.

A prominent advocate for human development, Grynspan has focused on reducing inequality and poverty, promoting gender equality, and strengthening multilateralism. She currently coordinates the

task team of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance, leading negotiations to reintegrate food and fertilizers from Ukraine and the Russian Federation into global markets on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General.



**Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton**

Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Pamela Coke-Hamilton has served as Executive Director of ITC since October 2020. Since that time she has led the agency to meet the economic and trade challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent global supply chain disruptions. Ms. Coke-Hamilton has a breadth of experience and expertise in trade-related capacity-building and sustainable development and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable economies such as the small island developing states and least developed countries.

Ms. Coke-Hamilton has worked extensively with the private sector and academia across African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to build trade-related institutional strength within member States. She also established the Women Empowered through Export (WeXport) platform to address the disadvantages that women-owned firms experience in accessing markets.

She began her career in Jamaica’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and later also served as Director of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA).

**Mr. Daren Tang**

Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Daren Tang, a national of Singapore, began his six-year mandate as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on October 1, 2020. Prior to his appointment as WIPO Director General, he served as Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), driving the strategic transformation of IPOS in support of Singapore’s innovation-based economy.



Between 1997 and 2012, before joining IPOS, Daren Tang held different legal positions within the Attorney-General’s Chambers and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore. In 2016, he received the Public Administration Medal from the Prime Minister's Office Singapore for outstanding efficiency and competence in the service of his country.

Daren Tang is a graduate of the National University of Singapore (Bachelor of Law, Honors) and the Georgetown University Law Center (Master of Laws, Distinction). He also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He is fluent in English and Chinese.



**Mr. Xiangchen Zhang**

Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)

Mr. Xiangchen Zhang has been serving as the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since June 1, 2021. With a long and distinguished career in trade policy, negotiations, and international relations, Mr. Zhang brings extensive experience and expertise to his current role. He has been a prominent figure in China's trade policy, contributing significantly to the country's engagement with the global trade system.

Before his appointment at the WTO, Mr. Zhang held several high-ranking positions within the Chinese government. He served as Vice Minister of Commerce of China, where he was instrumental in shaping China's trade policy and negotiating positions. From 2017 to 2020, he was China's Ambassador to the WTO, leading China's delegation and playing a key role in various multilateral trade negotiations. Prior to this, he served as Deputy China International Trade Representative from 2015 to 2017, and as Assistant Minister of Commerce from 2013 to 2015. Mr. Zhang's earlier roles included Director General for Policy Research and Director General for WTO Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce, reflecting his deep involvement in trade policy formulation and implementation. He also served as the chief negotiator for the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement in 2005 and was a key aide to China's Chief Representative for GATT/WTO accession negotiations from 1992 to 2001.

Mr. Zhang's academic background is as impressive as his professional career. He holds a bachelor's degree in law, a master's degree in international relations, and a PhD in international politics. His education and extensive experience in both policy research and negotiations have equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of international trade dynamics, making him a respected figure in the field of global trade governance.

**H.E. Mr. Febrian A. Ruddyard**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia,  
and  
President Trade and Development Board (PTDB), UNCTAD



Ambassador Febrian Alphyanto Ruddyard has been serving as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and other international organizations in Geneva since December 2021. He also holds the position of President of the Trade and Development Board. His distinguished diplomatic career spans over three decades, beginning in 1990 when he joined the Indonesian diplomatic corps.

Before his appointment in Geneva, Ambassador Ruddyard served as Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta from 2017 to 2021. During this time, he held significant roles including Governor of the Common Fund for Commodities, Co-Chair of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum's Countering Violent Extremism Working Group, and Co-Chair of the Senior Official Meeting of the Bali Process. His earlier roles include Director for Middle East Affairs and Director for International Security and Disarmament Affairs.

Ambassador Ruddyard's diplomatic assignments have taken him to various global postings, including as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indonesian Embassy in Vienna from 2015 to 2017, and at the Indonesian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. He also served at Indonesian embassies in Canberra and Riyadh and was the Coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement on Disarmament Affairs in New York from 2007 to 2010. He holds a Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Birmingham and is married with three sons.



**H.E. Mrs. Laura GIL SAVASTANO,**

Ambassador of Colombia and President of G77 and China (Vienna)

H.E. Laura Gil, Ambassador of Colombia to Austria, and designed non-resident Ambassador to Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna since August 1st, 2023.

H.E. Gil is an Internationalist committed to the defense of Human Rights and a Gender transformative approach in Foreign Policy, with national and international experience in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and democracy promotion, dedicated to the internationalization of Colombia through public service, private consultancy, and collaboration with both traditional and alternative media.

In 2022-2023, she served as Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs, a post in which she was responsible for coordinating and implementing Colombian positions before international organizations and other multilateral fora. She was Stanford University's Draper Hills Fellow 2015 and a National Endowment of Democracy Fellow 2020. She also became a well-known public figure working in political and international analysis for several Colombian media. She won the Colegio de Periodistas Award for Op-ed Column 2014, the 2015 Law and Democracy Medal awarded by the Colombian Press Society, the 2017 Alvaro Gomez Hurtado Award granted by the Council of Bogota, and the Simón Bolívar Award 2019 for opinion.

**H.E. Mr. Laouali Labo**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Niger, and the Coordinator of the African Group

Ambassador Labo has served as the Director General of Legal and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Niger since June 2017. Prior to this role, from December 2010 to May 2017, he was the First Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Niger to the United Nations in New York. His diplomatic career began in 1989, and he has since held various significant positions both within Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in international postings.



From 1997 to 2003, Mr. Labo served as First Counsellor at Niger's Embassy in Algiers. Within the Ministry's Central Administration, he was Director of Legal Affairs and Litigation from 2005 to 2010 and Head of the Americas Division in the Americas, Asia, and Oceania Directorate from 2003 to 2005. Earlier in his career, he worked in the Ministry's Europe Division and the Legal and Consular Affairs Division.

Mr. Labo holds a degree in public law from the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences at the University of Niamey and a master's thesis focused on the role of multinational oil companies in the socio-economic development of Niger. He also holds a certificate in international relations and diplomacy from the Cameroon Institute of International Relations. H.E. M. Labo is fluent in French, English, Hausa, and Djerma.



**H.E. Mr. Tarek Md Ariful Islam**

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and the Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Group

Before his appointment to Geneva, Ambassador Islam served as High Commissioner at the Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka, starting in 2020. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York from 2016 to 2020. His earlier experience at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN in New York includes roles as First Secretary and later Counsellor from 2005 to 2009.

Ambassador Islam also served at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata, India, from 2009 to 2012 and held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka. Throughout his career, he has pursued numerous professional training courses, including water resources management at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, international trade promotion at the International Trade Institute of Singapore, and cypher training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.

Mr. Islam holds a master's degree in diplomacy and trade from Monash University in Australia and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. He is married with two daughters.

**H.E Mr. Alexander Gabriel Yáñez Deleuze**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Coordinator of GRULUC

Ambassador Alexander Gabriel Yáñez Deleuze is a seasoned diplomat with a robust background in international relations and military history. He holds a degree in Political Science, majoring in International Relations, from the Universidad Central de Venezuela and a Magister Scientiarum in Military History from the Instituto de Altos Estudios de Seguridad de la Nación "Antonio José de Sucre" in Venezuela. His academic foundation has significantly shaped his distinguished career in diplomacy.



In 2024, Ambassador Yáñez Deleuze was appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador to the Republic of Peru from 2021 to 2024 and as Ambassador to the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 2020 to 2021. His earlier roles include Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs between 2019 and 2020, and Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean from 2014 to 2019. He also served as Ambassador to Peru from 2010 to 2014 and as Chargé d'Affaires in Belize from 2009 to 2010.

Ambassador Yánez Deleuze has held senior positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela from 2005 to 2009 and has been an active participant in numerous national delegations to the United Nations. Beyond his diplomatic work, he has contributed to academia by teaching at the Universidad Central de Venezuela and the Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela, further solidifying his influence in both international and academic circles.



**H.E. Mr. RAM PRASAD SUBEDI**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal, and the Coordinator of the LDC Group

His Excellency Ram Prasad Subedi has served as Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva since September 2023, and as Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation since January 2024. Previously, he led the South Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and served as Minister/Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, where he was Chargé d'Affaires a.i. from October 2021 to May 2022.

Mr. Subedi has held key roles at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director General of the Department of Consular Services, and diplomatic posts in Geneva and Beijing. His experience spans policy, regional cooperation, and development diplomacy.

Born in December 1977, Mr. Subedi holds Master's degrees in Science and Management from Tribhuvan University. He has over two decades of civil service experience and is married with two children.

**H.E. Mr. José R. SÁNCHEZ-FUNG**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic, and the Coordinator of SIDS



José R. Sánchez-Fung is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He currently holds several leadership roles, including Chairperson of the WTO's Committee on Budget, Finance, and Administration, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Equatorial Guinea to the WTO, Coordinator of the 39-country SIDS Group at UNCTAD, and Vice-President of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board.

Prior to his appointment in Geneva, Dr. Sánchez-Fung served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of the Diplomatic Mission of the Dominican Republic to Switzerland, based in Bern. He was also the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Universal Postal Union.

Before joining the foreign service, Dr. Sánchez-Fung was an academic, teaching economics for over two decades at institutions including the University of Nottingham (Ningbo, China), Kingston University London, and the University of Kent (UK). He currently holds an adjunct professorship at

Western Michigan University. He holds a BA in Economics from PUCMM in Santo Domingo and MA and PhD degrees in Economics from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom.



**H.E. Mr. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil and Host of COP25

Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota is a seasoned diplomat with the Brazilian Foreign Service, having embarked on his career in 1983. Over the decades, he has built a distinguished reputation in international relations, trade policy, and multilateral negotiations. His early involvement in the Trade Policy Division during the Uruguay Round, particularly on intellectual property issues, set the stage for a career marked by key roles representing Brazil in various international bodies, including the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Mercosur, and the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. He has also served at Brazilian embassies in New Zealand and India, and at consulates in Mumbai and Tokyo.

Throughout his career, Ambassador Patriota has provided strategic advice to high-level officials, including the Brazilian Minister of Science and Technology in 2001 and the President of Brazil from 2010 to 2013. Among his significant achievements, he served as Brazil’s chief negotiator for the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017. His expertise in multilateral diplomacy is further evidenced by his leadership in several United Nations processes aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and promoting responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

In addition to his extensive diplomatic work, Ambassador Patriota has played a pivotal role in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where he negotiated the Development Agenda and chaired the WIPO Diplomatic Conference that adopted an agreement on intellectual property, genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge. His academic background in biological sciences from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the University of Brasília complements his diplomatic career, grounding his international work in a strong scientific foundation.

**Mr. Miguel Bautista**

Secretary of the Trade and Development Board,  
Director for Intergovernmental Outreach and Support, UNCTAD

As Secretary of the Trade and Development Board and Director for Intergovernmental Outreach and Support at UNCTAD, Mr. Miguel R. Bautista plays a crucial role in ensuring the effective operation of UNCTAD’s intergovernmental machinery, enabling the organization to contribute fully to the global development agenda. He is also responsible for engaging with civil society and other stakeholders, facilitating their involvement in UNCTAD’s processes.



Before joining UNCTAD, Mr. Bautista had a distinguished career as a Philippine diplomat, serving in key positions at the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Philippine Consulate General in New York, and the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh. His expertise in international relations is recognized through his admission to the Philippine

Council for Foreign Relations, and his contributions to academia, including teaching roles at Miriam College and the College of St. Benilde in the Philippines. He is also a regular contributor to UNITAR.

Mr. Bautista's achievements have been honored with several prestigious awards, including the Order of Rizal (Philippines), the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins (Chile), and the Order of Rio Branco (Brazil). He has also been decorated for his service in the Philippine Coast Guard, where he holds the rank of Captain. An accomplished author, he has published works on diplomacy and public administration. Mr. Bautista earned his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, *summa cum laude*, from Matteo Ricci College at Seattle University, and his Master in Public Administration with highest academic honors from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



**Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz**

Head of the Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, UNCTAD

Angel González Sanz is the Head of the Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development Branch within the Division on Technology and Logistics at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In this role, he oversees the development and implementation of strategies related to technology, innovation, and knowledge management, focusing on advancing the global agenda in these critical areas.

A Spanish national, Mr. González Sanz began his career with the United Nations in 1994 as an economist. His work has predominantly centered on technology-related programs, including information and communication technologies (ICTs) and innovation policy. His expertise has been instrumental in shaping and executing initiatives aimed at enhancing technology and innovation frameworks globally.

Before his current position, Mr. González Sanz was actively involved in facilitating intergovernmental policy dialogues on technology and innovation within UNCTAD. He played a key role in implementing advisory and technical assistance programs, including UNCTAD's Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Reviews, which provide critical assessments and recommendations for advancing science and technology policies in member states.

**Ms. Penelope Hawkins**

OiC Debt and Development Finance Branch (DDFB), UNCTAD

Penelope Hawkins has been an economist, policy researcher, and adviser for nearly 20 years. As the founder and managing director of Feasibility (Pty) Ltd, she has led significant research projects in the financial sector across Southern Africa, commissioned by regulators, policymakers, and the private sector. Her work has established her as a key figure in financial sector research, particularly in areas concerning financial inclusion and education, consumer protection, and market conduct regulation.



Her expertise in the financial sector is underscored by her published work, including her Ph.D. thesis, which explored the financial constraints of small open economies and expanded the analysis of financial fragility, vulnerability, and exclusion to small businesses. Penelope's research covers a wide

range of topics, including consumer credit policy, industry pricing and behavior, and competition policy, making her a sought-after expert in these fields.

In addition to her research and advisory roles, Penelope has maintained strong academic ties, serving as a visiting lecturer at two South African universities. She actively engages with policymakers, regulators, business leaders, and academics, regularly presenting and peer-testing her research. Penelope holds a Ph.D. in economics from Stirling University in Scotland, an M.A. in economics (cum laude) from the University of South Africa, and multiple degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand, including a B.A. in economics (honours) and a B.Sc.



**Ms. Yuefen Li**

Senior Advisor, South Centre

Ms. Yuefen Li currently serves as the Senior Adviser on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance at the South Centre. She brings extensive experience from her 24-year tenure at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where she was the Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch. In this role, she played a crucial part in shaping international policies on development finance, making significant contributions to global discussions on trade, finance, and sustainable development.

Before her distinguished career at UNCTAD, Ms. Li was an academic, teaching at the University of International Business and Economics in China. Her scholarly work spans a wide array of topics, including development finance, the Chinese economy, and international trade and development strategies. Her publications have been influential in both academic and policy-making circles, reflecting her deep expertise in these areas.

Ms. Li holds a Master's degree from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Her academic journey also includes a period as a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics (LSE), further enriching her global perspective and expertise in international economics and finance.

**Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu,**

Independent Consultant, and Former G77 and China Environment Negotiator,

Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu is an Associate Fellow within the Global Fellowship Initiative of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He also serves as an independent expert and consultant for various United Nations agencies and NGOs. Currently, he holds several positions including Senior Legal Adviser with the Third World Network, Visiting Research Fellow at the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Knowledge Expert with Veritas Global, and founding partner of the Clean Energy Innovations Partnership.



Previously, Mr. Yu was the Deputy Executive Director at the South Centre, an intergovernmental policy research institution for developing countries. In this role, he managed the Centre's work on global

governance, climate change, investment, South-South cooperation, and sustainable development. His extensive policy work included research and analysis, as well as providing technical and legal advice to developing country governments on matters such as the right to development, international environmental law, and international climate change policy.

He holds a degree in Political Science (with honors) and a law degree from the University of the Philippines, and a Master of Laws degree (with honors) from Georgetown University, specializing in international trade and environmental law, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. His career includes roles with Friends of the Earth International and as a Staff Attorney with the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) in the Philippines. Mr. Yu has taught law at the University of the Philippines and has consulted for various UN agencies on international trade, development policy, and climate change, contributing to numerous publications on these topics.



**Mr. KONG Sokheng**

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and IOs (Geneva), and Coordinator of the G77 and China (Geneva) at the expert level

Mr. KONG Sokheng serves as the Commercial Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva. He primarily oversees Cambodia's trade and economic relations within the WTO, UNCTAD, and WIPO, while also acting as the Coordinator of the Group of 77 and China at the expert level at UNCTAD and the LDC Focal Point on WTO Reform. Mr.

Sokheng has been extensively engaged in multilateral trade negotiations, policy advocacy, and promoting Cambodia's interests on the global stage. Previously, he served as Commercial Attaché in both Geneva and Brussels, contributing to Cambodia's economic diplomacy and trade promotion.

Prior to his overseas postings, Mr. Sokheng held key positions within Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, including Deputy Director of the Department of Notification and Legal Compliance and Chief of the Trade in Services Negotiation Division, among others. He has been an active member of Cambodia's negotiating team in ASEAN, ASEAN Plus, RCEP, and WTO-related trade discussions.

Mr. Sokheng holds a Master of International Commerce from Korea University and both a Master of Law and Bachelor of Law from the Royal University of Law and Economics. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor and completed several advanced WTO training programs, including the Advanced Course on Trade Policy and various ACWL trainings.

## 9. List of Contributors

<b>1. Contribution: Foods, Sweets and Drinks</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Cambodia <sup>3</sup>	Food (Beef Skewers with Pickled veggies; Satay Shrimp Skewers) and Sweets (Sesame Balls a.k.a. Nom Krouch)	Including a performance: Cambodia Blessing Dance
2	Peru	Food (Ceviche; Causa of Chicken) and Sweets (Mousse of Lucuma)	
3	Venezuela	Sweets (Tres leches) and drinks (Rums)	
4	Indonesia <sup>4</sup>	Food (Chicken Satay; Rissoles)	
5	Thailand	Food (Shrimp cake)	
6	Brazil	Drink (caipirinha drinks)	
7	Bangladesh	Food (Samusa as appetizer; Chicken Biryani, Kabab made with Tuna Fish; Gulab jamun; and Carrot Halua)	
8	Viet Nam	Food (Spring Rolls)	
9	Lebanon	Food (Kibbe; Sambousek; Spinach pies) and Sweets (Baklawa/Baklava; Ghraybeh; Sanioura; Barazek)	
10	Kenya	Food (Chapati; Mandazi; and Pilau)	
11	Philippines	Food (Lumpiang shanghai; and seafood pancit)	
12	China	Anniversary's Cake	
13	Palestine	Palestine Tea and Sweets (Morning refreshment)	In conjunction with the morning refreshment
14	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Café and Dates	At lunch break
<b>2. Contribution: Finance (Total: 3050 CHF)</b>			
1	Angola	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
2	Burkina Faso	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
3	Burundi	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
4	Djibouti	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
5	Eritrea	150 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator

<sup>3</sup> As the President of the Group, Cambodia has substantively mobilized its staff and resources to ensure the smooth and successful arrangement of the entire 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as well as at the cocktail reception.

<sup>4</sup> Indonesia has proactively supported the group as well as including the sound systems setup and media support (video production and photography).

6	Ethiopia	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
7	Gambia	200 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
8	Lesotho	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
9	Mozambique	100 CHF	Via President
10	Nepal	100 CHF	As LDC Coordinator
11	Niger	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
12	Sierra Leone	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
13	Timor-Leste	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
14	Togo	200 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
15	Tanzania	500 CHF	Via President
16	Uganda	200 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
17	Zambia	100 CHF	Via LDC Coordinator
18	Morocco	400 CHF	Via President
19	Egypt	200 CHF	Via President

## 10. Selected Photos of the Day



Photos at the Opening Plenary





Photos at the Panel Discussion 1 and 2





**Photo at the Closing Ceremony**



**Photo at the Closing Ceremony**



**Photos at the Cocktail Reception**





**Photos at the Cocktail Reception**





**Photo at the Cocktail Reception**



**Group Photo: Ambassadors with Guest Speakers**

**-END-**