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

Statement of the Group of 77 and China
Delivered by H.E. Mr. SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Cambodia and President of the Group of 77 and China
at the 71st Session of Trade and Development Board
16 - 27 September 2024 | Room XIX, Palais des Nations

Item 6 – New trade dynamics: Realizing Inclusive Trade Gains

- Thank you Mr. President! It is a desire to have listen to your quotes especially in the morning.
- It is also a pleasure to have the enriched introductory remarks of Ms. Grynspan as always. Again, we congratulate and welcome Ms. Luz de la Mora to the organization vis-à-vis your presentation. The Group looks forward to have a close collaboration with you and Ms. Nan Li.
- I am honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
- At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for its background document and the outstanding efforts behind its preparation. The document addresses key challenges in international trade and offers valuable insights for the Group of 77 and China.
- The Group wishes to underscore the significance of addressing the current wave of protectionist tendencies that increasingly affect international trade. Trade has long been a cornerstone of economic growth and development, providing a pathway for many nations to advance. However, disparities in global trade, particularly for geographically remote or landlocked countries, reflect deeper structural challenges that must be addressed.
- Developing countries, often constrained by limited resources, find themselves competing in increasingly distorted international markets. Countries with greater financial resources resort to subsidies to support industrial and agricultural policies, advance green transformations, and address other pressing needs. Additionally, tariff barriers and intricate regulations continue to restrict market access, undermining the essence of free and fair trade.
- We are witnessing the repeated application of the "**KICKING AWAY THE LADDER**" strategy, where advanced economies block developmental pathways for others. In light of these challenges, we commend the report's emphasis on consumer protection, competition policies, and the need for economic diversification to promote equitable growth and trade opportunities.
- The Group finds it particularly relevant to explore how countries can diversify their economies beyond dependence on commodities, especially as discussions on digitalization and energy transformation intensify. Both areas heavily rely on raw materials, and we would appreciate hearing the panel's views on the strengths and weaknesses of the current international trade rules.

- Finally, the Group looks forward to engaging further with the panels, as Members of the Group will contribute additional perspectives and questions.

Thank you!

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