



GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A

Statement of the G77 and China
Delivered by Mr. KONG Sokheng, Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Cambodia
At the Special Trade and Development Board Meeting
17 January 2025 | Palais des Nations, Geneva

Final (Check Against Delivery)

Agenda 1: Host of UNCTAD XVI

Thank you, Mr. President.

Madam Rebecca Grynpán, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Excellencies and Colleagues,

- Happy New Year to all!
- I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
- At the outset, we commend the timely and significant discussions leading up to the XVI United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XVI). The Group of 77 and China warmly welcomes the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam's generous offer to host this important conference.
- Viet Nam stands as a remarkable example of recovery and resilience, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to overcoming adversity and achieving sustainable development. Its steadfast determination to uphold its principles and pursue inclusive growth serves as an inspiration to us all.
- Viet Nam's development policies have not only spurred impressive economic growth but have also contributed to substantial improvements in the living conditions and well-being of its people. Its achievements underscore the power of strategic policymaking and international cooperation in driving transformative progress.
- Since joining the United Nations in 1977, Viet Nam has consistently reaffirmed its dedication to multilateralism and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Its active contributions to strengthening the multilateral system and fostering international dialogue reflect its commitment to global peace, security, and development.
- We are confident that Viet Nam's example and rich history of overcoming challenges will positively influence the outcomes of the upcoming conference. The challenges ahead demand pragmatism, unity, and a clear vision for a shared future. UNCTAD XVI provides a critical platform for addressing pressing global trade and development issues, ensuring that no one is left behind in our collective pursuit of prosperity.

- Let us also remember that one of the primary objectives of the UN Charter is to guarantee peace. Sustainable development, as emphasized by UNCTAD, is intrinsically linked to this goal. The topics and strategies we discuss during this conference will be pivotal in shaping a resilient and equitable global economy.
- The Group of 77 and China reiterates its gratitude to Viet Nam for its commitment to UNCTAD and its willingness to host this historic conference. Your leadership and dedication set an exemplary standard for collaboration and progress.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda 2: Report of the Secretary-General to the Conference

Thank you Mr. President,

- The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Madam Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for the report today in addition to the comprehensive report made on **16 December 2024** at the TDB Extended Bureau meeting. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary-General to present a clear and insightful evaluation of the current global challenges.
- We align with the Secretary-General's assessment of the current situation. It is deeply concerning that only 17% of the SDG targets are on track. This, coupled with weak economic growth in many developing countries, increased exposure to global shocks, risks of trade fragmentation, and rising debt levels, highlights the urgent need for collective action and renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond.
- The reality of a multipolar world should not undermine the virtues of multilateralism. Multilateralism remains a cornerstone of global governance, providing a platform where the voices of all nations, regardless of size or power, are heard and respected.
- Since its inception, the Group has consistently emphasized the importance of economic diversification, ending commodity dependence, and reforming the global economic order. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the reform of international financial institutions and the establishment of international frameworks that foster equitable conditions for advancing the sustainable development of all countries.
- The Group would like to underscore that sustainable development must always be considered holistically, encompassing its three interconnected dimensions—economic, social, and environmental—and guided by the principle of equity and justice. Achieving the SDGs requires an integrated approach that balances these dimensions.
- We regard the 16 points/actions outlined by the Secretary-General as a constructive and valuable contribution to the ongoing dialogue. However, these proposals require thorough discussion within the Group, as well as a detailed examination of the report in its entirety. We reserve the

right to provide further comments, offer recommendations, and request clarifications, as necessary.

- The Group of 77 and China reiterates its commitment to working collectively with Mr. President, Viet Nam (the host), the UNCTAD Secretariat, and all group members to address these pressing challenges and to ensure that the principles of inclusivity and fairness guide our actions leading to a successful UNCTAD Ministerial Conference.
- To this end, let me once again congratulate Viet Nam for its generosity in hosting UNCTAD XVI. We reiterate our full support to the successful conclusion of this upcoming conference in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to commend H.E Ambassador Paul Bekker, President of the Trade and Development Board (TDB), for your outstanding leadership and for convening this important Special TDB Session.

Thank you, Mr. President.

-END-