

**GROUP OF 77
NAIROBI**

**Statement by H.E. Meles Alem, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of Kenya, and
the Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and UNON at the
Handover Ceremony of chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China at Nairobi
(UNON, Nairobi, 10 March 2019)**

Excellencies,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and

Dear colleagues of the members of the Group of 77 and China,

It is my honor to address you in this important event, handing over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 of the Nairobi Chapter for the year 2019 to the State of Palestine and to you, Excellency Hazem Shabat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine.

Ethiopia has full confidence in your ability, and that of the Palestinian delegation, to undertake the mission of chairing the Group successfully, and in your wisdom in representing and promoting the interests of the Group at Nairobi and beyond.

Excellencies, and Dear Colleagues,

H.E. Dina Mufti, my predecessor and your brother, took over the chairmanship of Group of 77 and China from Pakistan on January 2018. Please accept H.E. Dina Mufti's greetings from the sister country Egypt, Cairo. The Year 2018 had been quite a challenge. The governance reform at the United Nations Human Settlements Program, preparation for the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly, successive meetings of the Global Pact for the Environment, and the Sixth Global Environment outlook highlighted Ethiopia's chairmanship of the Nairobi Chapter. Promoting the interest of the Global South in these milestone events were crucial, and Ethiopia believes that with unflinching support of all Members, our Chairmanship delivered on its mandate. Ethiopia also represented the Nairobi Chapter in the 48th Meeting of the

Group of 77 Chapters held in New York in March 2018 and advocated for the strengthening of the Head Quarter function of the United Nations Offices at Nairobi in general.

Excellencies, and Dear Colleagues,

When Ethiopia undertook the responsibility of chairing the Group of 77, we did so while confident in your support for us to carry out this mission to the best of our abilities. Nevertheless, we have to admit that if it were not for the support given by all Member States and the small office here at the UNON and I would like here to thank Ms. Welfred Omenda and Mr. Victor Obour, for their relentless efforts.

Ethiopian Permanent Mission to UNON would not have been able to bear the responsibilities of the Chairmanship of the largest and strongest negotiating group in the United Nations system. For this, allow me to express Ethiopia's gratitude and appreciation, and give due recognition to all of you, for the success of the Chairmanship is that of everyone's'.

Your Excellency Ambassador Hazem Shabat, next year will not be easy. I am confident that you will lead the Group successfully in our endeavors; and in this regard, I would like to assure you Ethiopia's unwavering support.

I thank you for your attention.