



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 22 November 2025
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane,
Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers,
Director General of UNIDO,
Excellencies, distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. It is a great honour and privilege to address the 11th Ministerial Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on behalf of G-77 and China.
2. The Group of 77 and China express its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNIDO for hosting this pivotal Eleventh Ministerial Conference. This gathering is a critical milestone for assessing our progress under the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and reinvigorating our collective commitment to the sustainable and irreversible graduation of LDC's.
3. The Group acknowledges and highly appreciates UNIDO's steadfast commitment, as outlined in its Operational Strategy for LDC's 2022–2031, to supporting our countries. The Group has taken note of the comprehensive implementation plan and welcomes the inclusive consultation process, including the Development Dialogue sessions, that have shaped it. The group looks forward to endorsing this plan to accelerate the translation of our shared ambitions into concrete actions on the ground.
4. The Group wishes to highlight its appreciation for UNIDO's tangible contributions across all of the six key focus areas of the DPoA, including:
 - A. On “Investing in People,” we commend UNIDO for its 45 active projects in LDCs, which are crucial for skills development, youth empowerment, and job creation. Initiatives on technical and vocational training are building the skilled workforce we need. In this regard, we recommend a further scaling up of these efforts, with a specific focus on digital literacy and aligning training programmes with the demands of emerging green and digital economies.
 - B. On “Leveraging the Power of Science, Technology and Innovation,” we welcome UNIDO's leadership, with 60 projects in this area. Programmes promoting cleantech innovation and climate adaptation technologies are vital. In this respect, we recommend enhanced support for LDCs to access and adopt Industry 4.0 technologies, strengthen national innovation ecosystems, transfer of technology and strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation.
 - C. On “Supporting Structural Transformation,” we recognize UNIDO's crucial

role, with 64 projects fostering economic diversification. Projects enhancing agribusiness value chains are directly transforming our rural economies. In this context, we recommend increased investment in agro-industrialization, support for developing regional value chains, and targeted assistance to foster our transition towards more resilient, diversified, and competitive economic structures.

D. On “Enhancing International Trade and Regional Integration,” we value UNIDO’s 59 projects that help our enterprises meet international standards and integrate into global markets. Work on quality infrastructure and trade facilitation, is indispensable. In this respect, we recommend continued and expanded support to build our productive capacities, comply with complex trade regulations, and better leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) for regional integration.

E. On “Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilience,” we note with appreciation that this is UNIDO’s largest area of engagement, with 120 projects. Initiatives on methane recovery, climate resilience in essential oil sector, and plastic waste management are exemplary. In this regard, we recommend a significant increase in support for climate adaptation technologies, access to climate finance, address environment and aclimate change-related trade-restrictive measures, including border carbon taxes mechanisms and building low-emission, climate-resilient industries to safeguard our development gains.

F. On “Mobilizing International Solidarity and Partnerships,” we acknowledge the importance of UNIDO’s 62 projects that mobilize investments and foster partnerships. The Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) model and the work on strategic financing are key instruments. In this sense we recommend that UNIDO strengthens its partnership with international financial institutions, enhances its support for domestic resource mobilization, and helps unlock innovative financing and foreign direct investment tailored to the LDCs, particularly those in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations.

5. The Group commends these efforts and urges UNIDO to seek additional ways to uplift UNIDO's technical cooperation endeavours in the LDC countries.

6. As we observe the third anniversary of the Agrifood System Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) and the first anniversary of the Group of Friends for Food Security in Vienna, we acknowledge UNIDO's crucial role in supporting these vital initiatives and recommend that future efforts be intensified to ensure LDCs receive prioritized and substantial support through these frameworks.

7. In conclusion, the Group calls for the full and effective implementation of the Operational Strategy, backed by adequate, predictable and sustainable funding. The Group stands ready to deepen its collaboration with UNIDO and all partners to ensure that the next decade marks a definitive turn towards sustainable development and the irreversible graduation of all LDCs.

Thank you.