



As of 20 January 2025 (Check against delivery)

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

**General Statement of the Group of 77 and China Delivered by
Mr. KONG Sokheng, Counsellor of the Cambodian Mission at the 89th Session
of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance
20-24 January 2025 | Room XVII, Palais des Nations**

Mr. Hazem ABDEL SAMAD, President of the 89th Session of the Working Party,
Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. At the outset, allow me to commend the former Chair (Mr. Agustín NAVARRO DE VICENTE-GELLA) of the Working Party for the outstanding work and contribution. I would recognize the efforts made by the Secretariat in providing us with the detailed information presented for this 89th session of the Working Party.
3. It is appalusive to start also by congratulating you Mr. Hazem ABDEL SAMAD (Lebanon) and Mrs. Anna BARBARZAK (Poland), Vice-Chair-cum-rapporteur on the election to preside over this 89th Session of the Working Party on the Program Plan and Program Performance. We are confident that under your leadership we will have a productive session.
4. We would like to express our appreciation to the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno, for his presence in this session and the enlightening introductory remarks.
5. We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document presenting the proposed programme plan for 2026 and the programme performance for 2024. We recognize the challenges involved in summarizing such comprehensive information.

6. The Group welcomes the consistent efforts to enhance cross-fertilization and cooperation across UNCTAD's subprogrammes. Collaboration and cooperation are indeed critical to addressing the challenges ahead. We are also pleased to hear about the synergies created with other organizations within the system and would appreciate further details on the modalities of cooperation and the comprehensive strategy behind these efforts.
7. The Group would like to highlight the contributions of **Subprogramme 1** in the areas of macroeconomic policymaking, finance for development, and industrial policy. The Group fully support its efforts to assist members in understanding critical issues related to external debt, including the challenges associated with credit ratings.
8. Regarding **Subprogramme 2**, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of support in the areas of investment policies and the international investment agreement regime. Drawing lessons from past experiences and enhancing existing policies and frameworks are essential steps toward fostering more ethical and sustainable economic growth.
9. The Group considers it important to acknowledge the value of the studies on SDG washing and greenwashing conducted by the subprogramme. Efforts to promote transparency are crucial in providing a clear understanding of our current position on the path toward achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
10. **Subprogramme 3** has consistently made commendable efforts to engage with members and raise awareness about its work, and the Group would like to congratulate it for these initiatives. The G77 and China have worked closely with Subprogramme 3 on critical subjects, such as minerals, and greatly value its contributions. The Group finds the work on commodities, particularly their relationship with diversification and structural transformation, to be extremely useful.
11. The Group would also like to emphasize the importance of addressing issues such as non-tariff barriers and the negative impact of protectionism. Furthermore, I would like to briefly underscore the issue of climate change. For the G77 and China, one of the most salient aspects of this work is ensuring justice and maintaining balance across the three pillars of sustainability.

12. Turning to **Subprogramme 4**, the Group are pleased to acknowledge the efforts made by the division in the area of the digital economy. We consider the Digital Economy Report to be a particularly valuable resource, especially its first edition setting conceptual bases for discussion. In its second edition, it explored the whole cycle of the digital economy, exposing the material and energetic demands behind. The significant gaps we face and the challenges involved in bridging them require in-depth analysis through the lens of sustainable development.
13. Members of the Group have benefited greatly from the division's cooperation activities and policy reviews. We would also like to encourage the continued provision of assistance in the fields of trade facilitation and logistics with successful programmes such as ASYCUDA. UNCTAD has a long-standing tradition of being a prominent voice on issues related to maritime transport. From the perspective of developing countries, we urge the division to continue building on this legacy, following the path established by UNCTAD's history.
14. Lastly, but certainly not least, allow me to highlight **Subprogramme 5**, which, despite limited resources, has consistently provided valuable support to African countries, LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs. We would be particularly interested in learning more about the work carried out in favor of LDCs regarding intellectual property rights.
15. The Group strongly advocates for more LDCs to graduate and achieve sustainable growth, and we recognize that UNCTAD's work is instrumental in this regard. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the efforts to develop the SIDS strategy and express our hope for its effective implementation.
16. In closing, Mr. President, the Group will elaborate further on our comments during each division's presentation. Please count on our constructive engagement throughout the discussions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

-END-