GROUP OF 77 & CHINA G E N E V A



JOINT AMBASSADORIAL STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA (GENEVA CHAPTER) AT THE 60TH YEARS ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE GROUP Geneva, 13 September 2024

1. We, the heads of delegations of the Group of 77 and China, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Group take this opportunity to recall that this group is founded on the spirit of solidarity and unity and as a group we reflect on our accomplishments and challenges since 1964;

2. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen our Group, advance our collective interests and achieve our common aspirations;

3. We also proudly recall that the Group was created as a manifestation of unity and solidarity to pursue our common goals for promoting a fairer and more equitable global economic order, built on multilateralism, to ensure sustainable development for all;

The World Since 1964

4. We have collectively promoted initiatives that have evolved into institutions with diverse objectives, such as the Common Fund for Commodities and the South Centre.

5. We have also advanced ideas to address trade asymmetries that adversely affect commodity producers, such as the New International Economic Order, which was central and provided a framework for the North–South Dialogue summits from 1974 to 1981.

6. Furthermore, we underscore the importance of ensuring policy space for developing countries to address challenges and advance national development objectives based on their development, financial and trade needs. This concept is now widely used in normative and trade negotiations and is continually discussed and revisited;

7. Yet, despite these accomplishments and advances, we find that our world has evolved in ways the founders of the Group could not have anticipated. Recent geopolitical shifts, and multiple crises compel us to rethink the paths taken so far to attain sustainable development;

Looking to the Future

8. We reaffirm the commitment made by the Group of 77 and China at the Third South Summit in Kampala to the spirit of solidarity and unity of the Group and continue to defend and promote our collective interests and genuine international cooperation for development;

9. We aim to revitalize the spirit of the Group of 77 and China by emphasizing solidarity and unity. Each of the crises we currently face impacts members of the Group distinctly and profoundly. The Geneva Chapter will intensify its efforts to work collectively, including with the other Chapters of the Group of 77 and China, for the well-being and prosperity of the countries and peoples of the Global South, fostering mutually beneficial cooperation and a world order that is just, equitable, stable and peaceful and building a community of shared future for humankind. We reiterate the importance of pursuing global development and "winwin" cooperation on the basis of extensive consultations, joint contributions and shared benefits;

10. We recognize that the challenges we face today require us to adopt a forward-looking vision, one that not only surpasses the challenges of 1964 but also addresses the pressing issues highlighted in the Bridgetown Covenant. To effectively combat hunger and poverty, address the climate crisis, navigate rapid technological advancements, tackle trade and investment disruption, and achieve sustainable development, we must meticulously plan our journey for the next 60 years, ensuring that our strategies are as resilient and adaptable as the challenges themselves;

11. We reaffirm our firm rejection of the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We therefore call upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries;

12. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting our interests and strengthening our collective negotiating capacity. Through these efforts, we will continue to fulfil our commitments to the Bridgetown Covenant, and thus contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

13. We need to develop our economies through diversification. It is imperative to address technological and digital divides to balance the persisting asymmetries. It is also essential for our economies to find a way out of the commodity and economic dependence and build resilience to future crises. In the meantime, we remain steadfast in our commitment to securing fair and improved global access to our products;

14. We need to build up to a more sustainable and resilient economy. Continuing on the current path of irresponsible consumerism and unsustainable production will disproportionately harm the most vulnerable. Central to this effort is a commitment to capacity building and investment to support developing countries;

15. We need to improve how development is financed, ensuring that resources and knowledge are mobilized effectively for the implementation of policies and social technologies. The current financial architecture is dysfunctional, exacerbating inequality and failing to adequately address the needs of developing countries. Official development assistance is still key and indispensable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while South–South and triangular cooperation is a complement rather than a substitute to North–South cooperation for development. In this regard, we call for urgent reform of the international financial architecture, including the international financial institutions and their governance structure, to be equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to enhance their effectiveness, and to broaden and strengthen the voice, participation, and representation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

14. We stress the urgent need for strengthening and reinvigorating multilateralism, reinforcing and improving the United Nations-centred international system, to deal with the poly crisis the world is facing and address challenges of our time.

15 We recognize the diversity of the Group in terms of different levels of development. To that extent, we reiterate our commitment to work more diligently for an enabling international environment which can increase our trade, enhance the flow of foreign direct investment, create conditions conducive to the accumulation of capital, ease our debt burden, and allow us policy space to pursue our development objectives;

16. We request all members of the international community, the United Nations and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue providing muchneeded developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, among them Palestine refugees, during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, including through the United Nations agencies present on the ground;

17. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizing the importance of comprehensively addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges facing our countries. We also underscore the importance of measuring the progress of sustainable development going beyond gross domestic product in a balanced and integrated manner;

18. We underline the urgent need for vigorous pursuit of timely and effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries in a coordinated and coherent manner engaging all key stakeholders. In this regard, national efforts of the least developed countries to achieve self-sustained development needs to be complemented by supportive global programs and technical cooperation through enhanced, predictable, definite and targeted support aimed at expanding their development opportunities. We also find it necessary to furbish UNCTAD with sufficient budgetary resources, including from various funds set up to assist the least developed countries in order to carry out various assessments and provide technical assistance.

19. We welcome The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, which was adopted by the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in May 2024 and is a new and ambitious ten-year action

plan which has the potential to transform the economies of small island developing States and put them on a clear path towards sustainable development;

20. We recognize that for the last six decades, UNCTAD has been providing invaluable services to support the developing countries. It is, hence, our shared responsibility to ensure that UNCTAD remains strong and relevant in the changing world and also promotes the interest of the member States of the Group of 77 and China;

21. Furthermore, we consider it fundamental to strengthen UNCTAD capacity to fulfil its mandate and continue its crucial role in assisting member States, particularly developing countries, in achieving economic growth, sustainable development and enhancing international economic governance. We look forward to achieving substantial outcomes at the 16th session of UNCTAD, in a way that reflects the needs of the global South and accelerates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

22. We recognize that the global South bears a responsibility to create a better present and future for its people. Our contribution involves leveraging our collective voices to effectively strengthen and reform the multilateral institutions;

23. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, we commit to strive towards realizing our common goal of shared prosperity for all by leaving no one behind.