



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77, BY MR. SAMEH ELKHISHIN, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION A/C.2/73/L.18/REV.1 ENTITLED "ERADICATING RURAL POVERTY TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 30 November 2018)

Mr. Chair,

Poverty remains the primary obstacle and the biggest challenge hindering our efforts to achieve the SDGs. Poverty eradication is the most urgent challenge for developing countries to address.

Regrettably, into the third year of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, poverty eradication, especially in rural areas, remains a serious problem. Nearly 80% of the world's population living in extreme poverty live rural areas. In contrast to those living in other areas, the rural population faces many special difficulties in infrastructure, education, health care, financial services, ICT, and social security. The increasing frequency of natural disasters and extreme climate change has doubled down on the gravity of rural poverty reduction. We cannot leave the rural population behind.

The Group submitted a draft resolution on "Eradicating Rural Poverty to promote the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which calls on the international community to take concrete actions, adopt targeted and comprehensive measures to help developing countries, especially LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, effectively address their rural poverty.

The Group has always followed an open and transparent approach when participating in consultations and we are committed to forging consensus on this important issue. Regrettably, however, over the last five rounds of informal consultations, consensus seemed elusive. In the revised draft, we have taken on board, to the greatest possible extent, the substantive amendments from our partners. We hope that all delegations can vote in favor of this draft resolution.

Going forward, we stand ready to continue our engagement and dialogue with all delegations on rural poverty eradication and work together to respond to common challenges facing humanity. Last but not least, let me end my statement by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the facilitator of this resolution, representative of Ethiopia, Mr. Leulseged Tadese Abebe.

Thank you, Chair.