



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 BY MR. MOHAMED GAD,  
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM  
24: ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT ISSUES (New  
York, 17 October 2018)**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the documentation related to this agenda item. The Group reaffirms that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Poverty eradication is the overarching goal of the 2030 agenda and must remain so. Likewise, ending hunger and achieving food security is fundamental for sustainable development and contribute to poverty eradication.

In this regard, we express concerns that 783 million people still live below the international poverty line and the number of undernourished people has been on the rise since 2014 reaching an estimated 815 million in 2016, and the increasing volatility of food prices also contributes to food emergencies. In 2017, extreme working poverty remained widespread, with more than 300 million workers in emerging and developing countries having a per capita household income or consumption below \$1.90 per day. Furthermore, 844 million people lack basic water services, 4.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation. Almost 1 billion people also currently live without electricity.

The above-mentioned data is worrisome and shocking presenting an alarm that accelerated and concrete actions are urgently required to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairman,

We call upon the international community, and the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes, and the specialized agencies, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication and to urgently take measures to address the root causes and of poverty in all its forms and dimensions through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels. We call upon the developed countries to commit to fully implementing their official development assistance commitments, and to support the effective national efforts of the developing countries through predictable financial resources and technical assistance. We also call for efforts to create more economic opportunities for people living in poverty.

The Group calls upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capital income, building on existing initiatives as appropriate. These should recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.

The Groups underscores the link between poverty and inequality. The gap between rich and poor countries remains large, income inequality has been rising within most countries. In this regard, the

Group recognize that addressing inequality should be an integral part of any poverty eradication strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group share the view that the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008 -2017) contributed to achieving progress towards eradicating poverty, and believes that the proclamation of a Third Decade will boost the efforts in an efficient and coordinated manner to achieve our common aspiration.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group wishes to emphasize the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and supporting sustained economic growth.

We believe that industrial development cooperation, which is necessary for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, must take place in a balanced and integrated manner, which takes into account the three pillars of sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that industrial development cooperation should include technology transfer for the developing countries.

I thank you.