



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA - MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (New York, 23 July 2015)**

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

Co-Facilitators,

The Group's statement will address the following:

- (i) Emphasising the importance of the Means of Implementation;
- (ii) Expressing the Group's views on the relationship between the Means of Implementation aspects of the post-2015 development agenda and the outcome of the Financing for Development Process; and
- (iii) Proposing specific changes to the text that you have prepared.

Turning to the importance of the Means of Implementation, the Group would note that increasing globalization and interdependence means that sustainable development is not possible without an appropriately enabling international environment. Developing countries cannot achieve sustainable development without the means to do so. It is therefore clear that providing for adequate and predictable Means of Implementation must in turn include an increased flow of financial resources; an increased access to, and transfer of, affordable environmentally sound technologies; and an increased capacity building and development support.

Implementation must also take place, on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, at the national, regional and international levels by Member States, the United Nations system and the international financial institutions. A renewed and strengthened global partnership for development, which is primarily a partnership between governments, is required for this purpose. In this context, the Group reiterates its view that North-South cooperation remains the core of this global partnership and South-South and triangular cooperation is a useful complement to North-South cooperation.

These efforts may in turn be supported by civil society and the private sector which, for their part, also have responsibilities regarding implementation. Our objectives must be the elimination of poverty, the attainment of sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the improvement of living conditions and quality of life for our people. The necessary institutional arrangements will require improved functioning and coordination between the different stakeholders, the agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions of the United Nations, the international financial institutions and regional institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization.

In particular, Co-Facilitators, the international financial institutions have a major responsibility in the implementation of international commitments and in the attainment of the objectives of the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, coherence between financial and trade policies at the global level is imperative for the attainment of sustainable development objectives at the national level.

With regard to the relationship and/or inter-linkages between the Means of Implementation aspects of the post-2015 development agenda and the outcome of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development Process, the G77 and China would stress that the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 development agenda cannot be a substitute for, nor be replaced by, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Rather, the FfD outcome from Addis Ababa should be considered as supporting and complementary to the Global Partnership and the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 development agenda. The Means of Implementation contained in each goal and in Goal 17 are a fundamental component of the post-2015 development agenda in their own right and "an integral part of the "agenda" that we are currently negotiating.

Co-Facilitators,

Given the significant level of ambition contained in the SDGs and their associated targets, the Means of Implementation is one of the most important parts of the document we are currently negotiating. The level of ambition of the post-2015 development agenda and its successful execution will largely be determined by the quality of the language that is agreed on Means of Implementation. It is consequently in this context, that the Group of 77 and China is strongly opposed to proposals to the effect that the Financing for Development process should be fully integrated into and become the Means of Implementation pillar of the post-2015 agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is not a substitute for the Means of Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, as it does not exhaust all of the tools and mechanisms required to implement, monitor and review the global partnership for development.

Co-Facilitators,

It is against the backdrop of the views outlined in this statement that the Group makes the following textual proposals:

- The title "Implementation" in the political declaration should be changed to "Means of Implementation".

- In paragraph 33, the G77 and China proposes the deletion of the phrase "and endorse fully" in the first line. It would be sufficient to "welcome" the FfD outcome, and insert the phrase "which is complementary to the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 development agenda."

The text would thus read, "We welcome the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015, which is complementary to the Means of Implementation for the post-2015 development agenda."

- In paragraph 34, it would be important to recognise the role that development financing plays. We therefore propose the addition of the following language: "and a main source of development financing and a core financing mechanism" in the paragraph.

It would also be important to recognise the specific challenges facing by the middle-income countries.

We therefore propose that the paragraph should read, "Official Development Assistance remains important and a main source of development financing and a core financing mechanism in supporting the sustainable development needs of countries and regions, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and the specific challenges facing by the middle-income countries."

- It would be important to acknowledge the launching of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism. This can be done by adding the following sentence in paragraph 35:

"We welcome the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) in order to support the implementation of the SDGs."

- In paragraph 36, The G77 and China proposes utilising the language of the Future We Want by adding the phrase "non-discriminatory" in the first sentence. We also propose to also include a reference to "Africa" and "middle-income countries" in the third sentence of this paragraph.

The sentence could thus read, "We are committed to an open, well functioning, equitable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system for the realization of the Agenda. We resolve to work together to enhance macro-economic and financial stability through improved policy coordination and coherence. We resolve to reach agreement in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations. We attach great importance to providing trade-related capacity-building for African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states and middle-income countries."

- In paragraph 37, it is proposed to add the phrase "regardless of their migration status", after the word "migrants".

Thus the last sentence of the paragraph would thus read, "We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants (regardless of their migration status), refugees and displaced persons.

- Similar to our proposal in paragraph 36, the G77 and China proposes that we include references to "including African countries" and "middle-income countries" in paragraph 39.

The paragraph would thus read, "We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy space of all countries, in particular developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and middle income countries".

- The G77 and China believes that the outcome document should underline the important role and comparative advantage of the UN system to support the achievement of the SDGs. We therefore propose a paragraph to be included in this regard to state the following:

"We underline the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective UN system to support the achievement of the SDGs, and support the process on the longer term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda."

Language to this effect could also be considered for the Declaration part of the outcome document. It will also be important for the work undertaken within the UN system to be taken up in the context of "Follow-up and Review".

- The Group furthermore proposes that the reference to debt sustainability that was contained in the zero draft be brought back.

Co-facilitators,

The Group of 77 and China would also like to share its views on the references to the Means of Implementation contained in the third Chapter of the outcome document.

- It would be important to link the ambitious Agenda contained in Chapter 2 to what is contained in Chapter 3. It is thus proposed that language should be added in the first paragraph of this Chapter, which speaks to the commitment of implementing the Agenda that is being adopted.

In this regard, the Group of 77 and China proposes the addition of the following paragraph, as paragraph 33pre:

"Successful implementation of the sustainable development goals and targets require an ambitious set of means of implementation and a revitalised Global Partnership for Development. We therefore, reaffirm our strong commitment to the full implementation of this Agenda, through the delivery of the means of implementation as contained in Goals each individual goal and in Goal 17 of the SDGs".

- In line with our proposal in paragraph 33 above, we would once again propose that in paragraph 53, the phrase "and endorse fully" in the first line should be deleted. It would be sufficient to "welcome" the FfD outcome.

The sentence will thus read: "We welcome the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015.

- The current language regarding the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) in paragraph 54 should be retained without the square brackets.

In addition, this language should be complemented by repeating the entire paragraph 123 from the Addis Outcome so as to honour the mutual agreement that we all reached during the preparatory process for the Addis FfD Conference.

The language from paragraph 123 also contains specific agreements that relate directly to follow-up and review for the TFM, and would therefore need to be reflected in the context of the provisions for "Follow-up and Review" of the post-2015 development agenda.

- The Group of 77 and China is of the view that in order to ensure coherence, and to move away from the silo-approach to development, this Chapter should reaffirm the commitments made in relevant Programmes of Action. In this regard, the Group suggests the inclusion of the following paragraph:

"We reaffirm our strong commitment to the full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway, Vienna Programme of Action, and the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We recognize the need to support countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict to address their specific challenges and priorities. We also acknowledge the specific challenges facing middle-income countries. "

In conclusion, Co-Facilitators, the Group would like to reiterate that the primary long-term objective of this exercise is the effective implementation of all of the commitments undertaken in international agreements, within the context of the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, on which foundation the September 2015 Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda should build further.

I thank you.