



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-
2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (New York, 2 August 2015)**

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

Co-facilitators,

The Group sought to be constructive in its engagement, to ensure that a meaningful and ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda could be reached, in order to adequately and predictably address the interests of all Member States of the United Nations, in the true spirit of an enduring global partnership for development.

In the process of the protracted negotiations that have taken place, the Group's resolve has affirmed the core principles which we hold dear. This Agenda crafts a truly transformative agenda that recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Group of the G77 and China looks forward to ensuring that we collectively enhance the development agenda of the South.

No one should be left behind.

Co-facilitators,

The Group of 77 and China has worked in good faith with our partners to address the critical obstacles to development and to work together towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

I wish to express our gratitude to you as Co-facilitators for guiding us through this process in an open and transparent intergovernmental process that allowed all Member States the opportunity to reflect their interests and concerns.

Our Group continues to think that this document could be improved, it does not meet every single one of our aspirations, expectation and concerns. Such is the nature of negotiations. We have in our hands a living document, a Post-2015 Development Agenda with 17 Goals and 169 targets. It represents a delicate political balance and we would like to thank the co-facilitators for the balanced and measured way that they have taken on board many of our concerns and suggestions.

We welcome the inclusion of Landlocked Developing Countries in target 7.b. We continue to note the accidental omission of SIDS from target 13.b. as Small Island Developing States are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and request that this technical correction be made.

The focus will now move from negotiations, to ensuring that over the next 15 years, we work together nationally, regionally and globally to deliver on sustainable development.

Co-facilitators,

We have undertaken a large amount of work over the last few months. In the words of the late Nelson Mandela, and I quote "it is always impossible until it is done." The Group of 77 and China is ready to adopt.

I thank you.