



**STATEMENT BY CAROLA ÑIGUEZ, UNDERSECRETARY  
OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF ECUADOR, ON  
BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, AT THE  
ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
FOLLOW-UP (New York, 22 May 2017)**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. At the outset, the Group wishes to congratulate you for your dedication in the preparatory processes towards this Forum.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and South Africa for having prepared the text of the draft conclusions and recommendations of this Forum, and for having facilitated the consultations among Member States. Without doubt, their experience and leadership contributed to reaching the intergovernmental agreement on the draft.

While the Group welcomes the co-facilitators text, we however, consider that we have got an agreement of minimums and not an agreement of forward-looking actions. This is particularly true in the language articulated on issues such as climate change, trade, international development cooperation and technology transfer, which we do not consider to be agreed language moving forward because they roll back the progress achieved in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and 2030 Agenda for Development. We see the Forum as a crucial platform for financing for development. In this regard we will continue to promote its substance, to make the Forum more relevant each year, with the purpose of ensuring that all action areas of Addis Ababa are implemented in a full and balanced manner while leaving no one behind. Financing for development is the key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Assured and predictable financial flow is indispensable to the realization of sustainable development, particularly by developing countries. As such, the mobilization and meaningful use of financial and non-financial resources are essential to accomplish our commitment to end poverty and to achieve Sustainable Development in its three dimensions. In allocating development resources, priority should be given to areas that bear most directly on people's livelihood and development of developing countries,

such as poverty eradication, infrastructure development, health, education, etc.

Mr. President,

We reiterate the need for strengthening international development cooperation and call for greater international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows, as well as to ensure the return of assets to the countries of origin in a timely manner, in line with domestic and international law. We will continue promoting the upgrade of the Committee of Experts in Tax Matters to an intergovernmental body with experts representing their respective governments. We recognize the work of the Committee of Experts in Tax Matters and call on the Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters to supplement regular budgetary resources, to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate. In this context, the Group recalls the importance of an equitable geographical distribution of members of the Committee of Experts, taking into account an increase in participation of members from developing countries.

There is a need to improve the global economic governance and create an enabling international environment for development. The international community should bear in mind the overarching goal of win-win cooperation and work to create a favorable external environment for developing countries. As we mentioned during the negotiations, the G77 and China is alarmed at the increase in protectionist rhetoric and tendencies of some developed countries, in this regard, we reaffirm importance of a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We emphasise the need for balanced outcomes that will allow developing countries to meaningfully engage in global trade. Finally, we express serious concern at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, particularly domestic support and market access issues of interest to developing countries and the efforts by some members to undermine the commitments contained in the Doha Development Agenda. We thus call for the international community to work tirelessly to conclude the Doha Development Round of negotiations and afford priority to issues that address the imbalances and inequities of the current global trading system by agreeing on legally binding outcomes that

will allow developing countries to meaningfully engage in equitable global trade.

Mr. President,

The Group of 77 and China remains committed to addressing climate change, recognizing that its Member States have been and continue to be the most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, which erode our development gains thereby undermining and delaying the achievement of the goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We call for further climate action and predictable and sustainable support, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC and other existing commitments under the convention.

We would like to stress our commitment to addressing the challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small-island developing States (SIDS), the need for special attention to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and countries and peoples under colonial or foreign occupation as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries. In this context, in the implementation and the follow-up and review of 2030 Agenda, the international community must not forget the severe difficulties faced by countries and peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation and strive to remove the obstacles to their full realization of the rights to self-determination and to development, which adversely affect their economic and social development and their ability to achieve and implement the sustainable development goals and to ensure that they will not be left behind. Likewise, we reaffirm our 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 reaffirm the respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The Group considers there is an urgent need to channel sustainable technical assistance and capacity-building tailored to the specific needs and constraints of developing countries, to address technology infrastructure gaps as well as capacity constraints. We highlight that

international development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation, remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable economic growth. As North-South cooperation is the main channel of development financing, the international community must uphold the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” (CBDR) and push North-South cooperation to continue to play its key role. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility in financing for development and we urge developed countries to fulfill their unmet Official Development Assistance commitments. In the same vein it is essential to mobilize domestic resources to support science, technology and innovation, which needs to be supported by an enabling global environment. South-South cooperation is not a substitute to North-South cooperation, but an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives.

The Group of 77 and China take note with appreciation the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) report on Financing for Development, which broadly covers the follow-up of all action areas which are reflected also in the agreed conclusions and recommendations. In order to facilitate the timely preparation of the draft conclusions and recommendations of the next year Forum, we emphasize the importance for the IATF Report to be issued no later than the end of February 2018.

Thank you