



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOHAMED EDREES, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA, AND UNOPS - UNDP SEGMENT (New York, 6 June 2018)

Mr. President,

- 1- I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
 - 2- At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your able leadership of the work of the Executive Board. I also wish to thank the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner, for his statement and important work of the UNDP in implementing UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021.
 - 3- The Group of 77 attaches great importance to the work of the United Nations Development Program in support of national efforts and capacity building geared towards development and the achievement of the SDGs, in line with countries' national need and priorities to eradicate poverty, and achieve long-term economic prosperity, as well as human and environmental well-being. For us, the UNDP is at the core of the UN development system, and we shall maintain its centrality therein.
 - 4- The Group of 77 emphasizes that the 2030 Agenda requires an integrated approach to sustainable development and collective action, at all levels, to address the challenges of our time, with an overarching goal to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In this regard, UNDP has a key role to play to the contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through country, regional and global programs, and the eventual implementation of its Strategic Plan for the years 2018 to 2021.
 - 5- The Group emphasizes that the mandate of the UNDP is, and remains development, and it should carry out this mandate through its programmatic focus and its support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In conducting its work, the UNDP should coordinate its development work with the work of other actors involved in humanitarian assistance, and peacebuilding activities, in a context-specific way and in line with the mandate of paragraph 24 of the QCPR resolution 71/243, and as reaffirmed in the recently adopted GA resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UNDS in the context of the QCPR.
- Mr. President,
- 6- Securing core funding for development activities is critical to achieve the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda and to sustain UNDP's central role in the reinvigorated development system. In this regard, the Group reiterates the importance of meeting ODA commitments, which will remain crucial for the SDGs. Support to the domestic mobilization of resources, when requested by programme countries, must be seen as additional to, not a replacement for, the efforts requested to ensure adequate quantity and quality of funding for the UNDP itself.
 - 7- The remaining imbalance between core and non-core resources of the Organization is a matter of serious concern at a time when the challenges for development are increasing. In this regard, we

emphasize the importance of the predictability and availability of regular resources to allow UNDP to fulfill its mandate in an efficient and independent manner in responding to developing country's needs.

8- The Group of 77 welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on UN development system repositioning, and looks forward to its full implementation aiming at mobilizing system wide support to help assist developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda.

9- The Group believes UNDP has a key role to play within the UN Sustainable Development Group and the transition team set by the SG for the implementation phase of the repositioning of the UNDS, including in the process of the preparation and implementation of the plan which will be presented to the GA before the end of the current session.

Mr. President,

10- The Group of 77 and China supports the important role of the UN Office for South - South Cooperation and its mandate in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions in advancing, coordinating and mainstreaming South-South cooperation activities globally and across the UN system.

11- The Group welcomes the UN office for South - South cooperation Strategic Framework that aims to bring South-South and triangular cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and strengthen international cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, let me be clear in reiterating, that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South Cooperation.

12- The Group underlines that the agenda on South - South Cooperation has to be set by countries of the South, and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit.

13- As we move towards the preparation of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20 to 22 March 2019, we have high expectations that the upcoming Conference will step up South-South cooperation on the basis of the Buenos Aires Program of Action (BAPA), and the Nairobi outcome document of the First High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation.

14- Finally, the Group of 77 would like to wish you all success in your efforts in steering the Executive Board's work, and looking forward to further engagement, and collaboration with UNDP to achieve long-term development, and prosperity for our people.

Thank you.