



GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A

**Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China delivered by Mr.
Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative of
Pakistan**

**Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme
Budget**

Seventy-sixth session

Geneva, 3-5 September 2018

Chairperson,

Madam Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Distinguished delegates,

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

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the bureau on your election. This is an especially important session of the Working Party as it is being held amidst prevailing international environment and major changes within the United Nations including repositioning the UN development system.

The Group would like to make few general comments here while more specific views will be provided at the appropriate points in our deliberations over the next three days.

We appreciate the secretariat's efforts in extending technical cooperation to developing countries in crucial areas such as science and technology policies, E-Commerce readiness and trade facilitation. We recognize that some UNCTAD programs such as ASYCUDA and DMFAS are actually one of the longest running in the UN system.

Chairperson,

However, sharp reduction and unpredictability in funding support to UNCTAD trust funds are having negative impact on organization and delivery of technical cooperation as well as its effectiveness. Contribution from developed countries fell by 30 percent in 2017 to USD 6.8 million, which is less than half of the funding level of developing countries. Consequently, the share of developed countries in total trust fund resources also dropped from 24% in 2016 to 19% in 2017, the lowest share in the past two decades. It is also disconcerting to note that the UNCTAD Trust Fund for LDCs did not receive any new contributions over the past three years.

Amidst the declining funding support, the demand for UNCTAD technical cooperation has actually increased in recent years. Resultantly, many developing countries have resorted to self-funding option in order to benefit from UNCTAD's technical cooperation.

The Group of 77 and China also supports carrying out specific activities for the effective implementation of the mandate of paragraph 38 r) on the impact of non-tariff barriers and development as outlined in the Nairobi Maafakiano.

It is therefore critically important that UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities should be put on sustainable footing for it to better serve the needs of developing countries in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We look forward to a productive discussion in the session on how best to achieve that.

Thank you very much.