



GROUP OF 77 & CHINA

GENEVA

**Statement delivered by the Philippines
on behalf of the Group of 77 and China
at the 68th Session of the Working Party on the
Strategic Framework and the Program Budget
(Technical Cooperation and Evaluation)
3-5 September 2014**

Mr. President, H.E. Thomas Fitschen,
Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the sixty-eighth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Program Budget. The Group is confident that under your leadership, this session of the Working Party will achieve its objectives. I would like to assure you of my Group's full support.
2. The Group of 77 and China also expresses its thanks to Deputy Secretary-General Draganov for his introductory statement and we would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for organizing this meeting.
3. The Group of 77 and China recognizes the importance of this session of the working party as it deals with issues crucial to the developing world. In this regard my group wishes to emphasize three points. First, technical cooperation should incorporate the spirit of both Accra and Doha, second, it is crucial to have a fundraising strategy that ensures funding for technical cooperation will be both predictable and sustainable, and third, it is essential that technical cooperation strengthen the ability of States and international organizations to meet the challenges of the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Group of 77 and China views this session as an opportunity to examine UNCTAD's work in the area of technical cooperation and to take the necessary steps to implement recommendations included in the Accra Accord. We commend the Secretariat for efforts undertaken and insights provided in the documents presented to the Working Party, which reflect the spirit of Accra.
5. We recognize that technical cooperation as the third pillar of UNCTAD activities is the means by which the work undertaken under the other two pillars is brought together to benefit member States through concrete operations. As principal beneficiaries of the technical assistance activities of UNCTAD, members of the Group attach great importance to this important aspect of UNCTAD's work.

6. The Group of 77 and China would like to reaffirm its support for the principles that should be at the core of the technical cooperation policy of UNCTAD, which include demand driven orientation, ownership by developing countries, predictability of funding, transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, and independence.
7. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank our development partners for their support to the technical cooperation programs of UNCTAD. We are nevertheless concerned at the pronounced decline in funding from developed countries. While we understand that many donors are faced with budgetary cuts due to the economic and financial crises, the Group would like to urge them to increase their level of assistance to UNCTAD through multi-donor and multi-year trust funds, in line with similar approaches to increase contributions in other similar institutions and in light of the expected increase in needs to ensure the effective implementation of international agreements like the one on trade facilitation under WTO, and other items related to the post 2015 development agenda.
8. The Group of 77 and China commends UNCTAD's ALDCs division for its focused work in terms of capacity building via technical assistance activities for LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and other vulnerable and small economies, taking into consideration their special circumstances. A key resource for activities is the LDCs Trust Fund. Contributions to this fund are used for strengthening national policymaking and assisting countries in the implementation of projects and programs of action. Donors to this fund are therefore requested to continue to make pledges.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The Group of 77 and China welcomes UNCTAD's efforts to increase synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD's work in the area of investment and enterprise and in this respect looks forward to the upcoming World Investment Forum 2014. We acknowledge with appreciation UNCTAD's commitment to support policymaking through the Investment Policy Review Program and the model of the international investments agreement and reiterate our call towards strengthening this activity.
10. The Group of 77 and China recognizes the importance of developments in the area of e-commerce and UNCTAD's work in this field with research products that provide a valuable reference for policy makers. In view of the continuing and rapid growth in this sector we welcome UNCTAD's support to governments to help them develop their e-commerce legislation and their information economy statistics.
11. We welcome UNCTAD's work on strengthening the capacities of national policy makers and academics in understanding the links between trade, finance, investment, technology, and developing relevant policies that support development objectives. Activities such as this ensure that policy makers are able to craft sound recommendations in line with the post 2015 development agenda.
12. We would also like to thank the secretariat for the delivery of short courses to Geneva-based delegates. These short courses provide succinct information and knowledge that enhance the work of delegates in Permanent Missions in the relevant areas of UNCTAD's work in development.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The group would like to highlight that the evaluation process of UNCTAD activities should take into consideration the specific circumstances of developing countries as the main beneficiaries of the work of the UNCTAD, and in this regard would like to stress that using e-related indicators that are all related to social media or other internet based sources might not be accurate in evaluating the effectiveness and reference of the work of the UNCTAD, as the majority of people living in developing countries do not have access to the internet and might not use internet related tools, in this regard the group highlights that one of the main indicators for such efficiency and relevance is the interest of diversity of developing countries in technical cooperation projects and training, and it goes without saying that limited availability of support for technical cooperation has direct impact on the dissemination of the work of the UNCTAD and on the utilization of the full potential of our organization.
14. In closing, the Group of 77 and China commends the UNCTAD Secretariat for its close coordination and collaboration with member States on these important issues and highlights the importance of maintaining the proper channels of communication with governments, which is through the Permanent Missions in Geneva. Finally, allow me to reiterate the Group's unstinting support and strong commitment to have a successful outcome of this meeting under your able leadership.