

INVESTMENT, ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
G77 & CHINA DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT

Navigating the global investment landscape: strategic policy options

Mr. President, Dr. Richard Brown
The Acting Secretary General, Mr. Pedro Moreno,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. At the outset, the Group of 77 and China wishes to congratulate, the President, and the Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur on your election to the Bureau of this sixteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. We extend our full support and cooperation to you in steering our deliberations towards a successful outcome.
2. The Group also wishes to express its appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for the substantive documentation prepared for this session, including the *World Investment Report 2026* and the analysis on global investment trends and policy developments.

Mr. President,

3. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the theme of this year's Commission session: "Navigating the global investment landscape", as this landscape is in fact undergoing profound structural transformations that are altering the conditions under which developing countries in particular attract, retain and leverage international investment.
4. *The World Investment Report 2026* confirms that, **compared to 2024**, global foreign direct **investment grew by 6%** to reach **\$1.6 trillion in 2025**. However, this growth covers the underlying disparities across countries, regions and sectors.
5. To the G77's great concern, investments are becoming more selective and more concentrated. Strategic sectors, including AI infrastructure, semiconductors, critical minerals, energy transition technologies and advanced manufacturing, now account for **44 per cent of global greenfield investment**, up from **16 per cent in 2020**. Yet low-income and lower-middle-income economies together attract **only about 10 per cent of global greenfield investment** in these strategic sectors
6. It is alarming that sectors with lasting impact on people's lives, such as health, education, food security and sanitation, continue to face chronic underinvestment. This pattern of concentration risks widening existing development gaps and leaving behind the most vulnerable. As the *World Investment Report 2026* warns, the fastest-growing investment is moving towards sectors that require capabilities many developing economies are still trying to build.
7. The Group thus reiterates that investment must be sustainable in all its dimensions: social, economic and environmental. The objective of any investment strategy must be sustainable development, ensuring that investments contribute to the development of skills, the

harnessing of technologies, and the fostering of an innovative local environment. FDI remains a driver of development, bringing not only capital but also new skills, technology, jobs and access to markets. However, these benefits must be maximized and equitably distributed. Investment is an integral part of financing for development, in which the role and need for complementary sources of financing, such as grants and sustainable debt, are evident. Without adequate and predictable financing across all sources, developing countries cannot build the productive capacities needed to attract and retain the investment that will drive their development.

Mr. President,

8. It is fundamental for developing countries to have a well-defined investment framework that guarantees accountability, predictability and alignment with national development plans. Such frameworks should safeguard adequate policy space of developing countries to pursue their development priorities, while ensuring that investments contribute to structural transformation and the achievement of Sustainable Development. We especially stress the importance of investment facilitation measures and policy frameworks that lower the cost of capital and support domestic and international ecosystems that can multiply foreign investment.
9. It is worth noting that ability of developing countries to attract, retain and derive the full benefits from investment is influenced not only by domestic conditions, but also by the broader international environment. As underscored in the World Investment Report 2026 and reflected in relevant UNCTAD expert discussions, persistent constraints in access to markets, finance, investment, technology and related know-how can impede productive transformation and efforts towards sustainable development. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance of promoting equitable, non-discriminatory and unhindered access to these resources and opportunities, with a view to enabling developing countries to strengthen their productive capacities and maximize the development benefits of investment.
10. We further note that unilateral coercive measures can adversely affect investment in developing countries, including by constraining access to finance, technology and international markets and limit their ability to attract, retain and benefit from investment. In this regard, we request UNCTAD, within its mandate, to conduct analysis on the impact of such measures on investment and development, and to facilitate dialogue among Member States on this matter.

Mr. President

11. The Group notes the renewed prominence of industrial policy, the ever-growing role of regional frameworks and of digital infrastructure in redefining interdependence patterns and in redefining the geography of production. These shifts bring both opportunities and

vulnerabilities for developing economies, with the main challenge lying in capturing limited and selective opportunities, reducing exposure to new vulnerabilities and having the capabilities to participate in more selective and resilience-oriented production networks.

12. As a stabilizing and enabling mechanism for investment, the Group encourages the strengthening of regional integration efforts and looks forward to fruitful discussions during this session of the Commission, trusting that our deliberations will be adequately reflected in the agreed conclusions, which will serve as substantive inputs for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board.
13. We further invite all delegations to constructively engage in the discussions leading to the outcome to be presented to the Trade and Development Board. This is an important precedent: as stipulated in the Geneva Consensus, that the Commission, with the agreement of all Member States with their participation on an equal footing, has the duty to provide inputs to the President of the Trade and Development Board. It is therefore up to us to ensure that our collective wisdom and shared priorities are faithfully reflected in that outcome.
14. The Group of 77 and China reaffirms its commitment to working with all partners to ensure that international investment serves as an engine of inclusive and sustainable development for all. We remain guided by the principles of the Geneva Consensus and the priorities reaffirmed at UNCATD 16, particularly those concerning investment policy and policy frameworks that create an enabling environment at all levels for developing countries to better attract, increase and facilitate investments, and for the achievement of the SDGs.

I thank you.