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Group D Statements

Statements delivered by
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Agenda Item 2: High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

(a) Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10

Mr. President, Secretary General, Excellences, honoured Delegates,

I speak on behalf of Group D and its Member States.

Firstly, we commend the discussion on inequality. Indeed, it belongs among the most relevant topics when we discuss achieving the SDGs in the context of global trade and development. The background paper addresses it rightly, when stating about the inequality, that, and I quote: „*It is present in economic, social and political domains, and in vertical (income and wealth) and horizontal (gender, racial, ethnic, caste, etc.) dimensions.*“. The horizontal approach should be central, because development and the SDG-s should be seen as a big puzzle – if something is missing, the whole picture is incomplete.

Therefore we have to mention, that it gives us incomplete or even contradicting understanding when we look, again, at the background paper, this time §6, which mentions that inequality of incomes within countries is a result on only two determinants. It is pity that the latter mere focus on financial flows in the background paper only addresses the consequences, not the root causes of inequality, not saying that some other elements, like the IFF, belong doubtfully within the mandate of UNCTAD.

It is important to understand, that, and again, I refer to the background paper, *private capital has become more mobile*. The million-dollar questions we need to ask here are - where does it go, and why? Let me try here. Firstly, the capital moves where there is political stability, good governance, firm adherence to the human rights, where there a policy mechanisms present and well-used to empower the women, youth and young people, etc. Only then, a country is able to take maximal use of the FDI flows or ODA support. One needs more focus, *inter alia*, on cross-societal empowerment, access to health, education and skills development, innovation and entrepreneurship policies. All this will open the avenues for new technologies and job creation and consequently diversify one's economy and value chains, thus making it more resilient.

Based on this, I must unfortunately say that Group D cannot agree with the respective policy recommendations presented in the background paper. They are not following the full picture and give us extremely biased understanding what is needed to be accomplished in order to achieve the SDG 10.

Moreover, we believe that the current high-level discussion merits from the plurality of views, especially taking into account that there often is no one-size-fits-all solutions and tailor-made approaches are needed to achieve the best outcome. Therefore, we propose that the discussions at the high-level segment will not be concluded with the agreed policy recommendations, and that all respective elaborations will be well reflected in the Chair's summary.

Thank you.

