



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY THE
DELEGATION OF IRAQ AT THE 2025 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

(New York, 5 February 2025)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Colleagues, ladies and Gentlemen

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

The Group continues to welcome the annual holding of this Partnership Forum and looks forward to having some breakthrough news to help stimulate and scale up concrete actions towards the implementation of the sustainable Development Goals.

This year, as we review goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, our world continues to face complex and interlinked challenges, including persistent conflicts, the escalating impacts of climate change, poverty, hunger, widening debt levels, limited Sustainable Development Goals' financing, biodiversity loss, widening digital divide, and the aftermath of global health crises. These pressing issues demand immediate, coordinated action.

Mr. President

On SDG3, notwithstanding some progress in the advancement of public health since 2015, overall, we are still short of what is needed to achieve all the health-related targets by 2030. Therefore, we must make full use of the following upcoming High-level Meetings of the UN General Assembly on NCDs and Mental Health (2025), HIV/AIDS (2026), Road Safety (2026), Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (2026), Universal Health Coverage (2027), Tuberculosis (2028), Antimicrobial Resistance (2029).

SDG5 has rightfully received tremendous mileage, as a crosscutting goal. However, like so many other SDGs, little political will and minimal financing have limited its full and effective implementation. Additionally, the many layers of controversial themes that continue to crowd the discussions distracts us from the urgency and importance of the empowerment of women and girls. Here, like in all other SDGs, a multi-stakeholder approach is needed.

Prioritizing partnerships, emphasizing women's leadership and participation to ensure equity and inclusiveness, and tackling the burden of unpaid care work by advocating for programs that redistribute responsibilities are all necessary.

Mr. President,

The ocean is vital to all life on Earth. The ocean health is of grave concern as it is in decline due to threats such as acidification, warming, deoxygenation, overfishing, pollution and coastal and infrastructure development, which, all together, puts ocean health, biodiversity and ecosystem services at risk.

Mr. President,

The Group believes that addressing the SDGs requires strengthened commitment to SDG17. While there have been improvements such as in data collection and statistical analysis, implementing national SDG implementation plans, and advancing science and technology, more must be done. It is also worth mentioning that the latter is also forging a wider divide between developed and developing countries. Key to the implementation of SDG17 and the aforementioned SDGs is sufficient financial resources for developing countries, without which we cannot effectively forge partnerships or implement initiatives necessary for achieving the SDGs.

Our response to this lies in:

- Increasing the provision and mobilization of financing, including through increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA), and concessional and grant-based finance for developing countries; voluntary rechanneling of unutilized Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to developing countries and a new allocation of SDRs; a more comprehensive, inclusive and effective debt solution framework; creating enabling environments for investments in sustainable development.
- Reforming the international financial architecture to strengthen the voices and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making.
- Scaling up and promoting technology transfer to capacity building for, and cooperation with developing countries to facilitate an enabling environment for technological and scientific development; and
- Rebuilding trust and restoring hope through inclusive multilateralism and enhanced international cooperation.

Mr. President,

With five years ahead of us to 2030, let it be said that we tried and failed, not that we failed to try. This year, with the crucially important forthcoming conferences and high-level meetings – namely, the 4th financing for development conference, the 3rd Ocean conference, 2nd World summit for Social Development, 30th Climate Change COP, and 16th CBD COP, we must set right our course and begin to deliver on that collective journey we embarked on in 2015, pledging to leave no one behind.

I thank you.