

**Draft Statement and Interventions on behalf of the Group 77 and China
Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

26 February 2024 (Opening Session)

Your Excellency Ms Leila Benali, Honourable Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6);

Your Excellency Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of the Republic of Kenya;

Excellency Madame Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP;

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and habari ya asubuhi.

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

2. The Group would like to congratulate you, Mme President and through you, the Kingdom of Morocco for the excellent leadership of the Sixth Session of UNEA and what you have contributed for the past two years. The Group would also like to commend the bureau members, for their hard work, the Government of Kenya as the host country and the Secretariat for the timely completion of all working documents and the excellent organisation of the Assembly. The Group of 77 and China trusts that with your great experience and expertise in environmental affairs, you will steer this meeting towards successful and implementable outcomes. The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate its full support to the Moroccan Presidency and assures you of its full commitment in engaging constructively with you, as well as other Member States, for the success of this important high level meeting.

Excellency Mme President,

3. This UNEA coincides with the Group's 60th anniversary. Just last month, the leaders of the Group gathered in Kampala, the Republic of Uganda for the Third South Summit. With the theme 'Leaving No One Behind', the 134 Member States agreed to continue to act in solidarity and unity for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world that responds to the Group's aspirations, reaffirming the Group's commitment to the spirit and principles of the Group, as well as our collective interests in genuine international cooperation for development.

4. The focus is in line with the theme of UNEA-6, 'effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution', in which human development is interlinked with our environmental needs. Therefore, the Group of 77 and China recalls all the principles of the 1992 Rio Declaration, according to which human beings are at the center of the concerns for sustainable development, and entitled to a healthy environment and expresses the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature, as the very possibility to eradicate poverty and hunger, to ensure the right to development in order to achieve all other SDGs, and to emphasize the common but differentiated responsibilities of states.

5. In this regard, members of the Group of 77 and China are committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Group recognizes that the overall progress towards the achievement of sustainable development has fallen short of expectation, with limited support for developing countries, especially with regard to financing for development, transfer of technology and capacity building, a matter which requires scaling up international cooperation and collective as well as responsive actions.

6. The Group also reiterates that United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as all other major outcome documents, in relation to developing countries should be implemented in their entirety, and the commitments enshrined therein should be honoured, in line with the principles of multilateralism and international cooperation.

Mme President,

7. The Group takes note of the draft resolutions tabled for this Assembly. It stresses the need for fair treatment and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of all resolutions, including those from past UNEAs. We wish to reiterate that developed countries need to provide adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries while seeking to achieve sustainable development.

8. The Group underscores the importance of securing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, under the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account, inter alia, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities. We look forward to the upcoming INC-4 to be held in Canada.

Mme President,

9. The Group reiterates its strong support to the common objective of achieving an impactful and successful UNEA-6 and its important role for countries in the Global South. It hopes that the draft resolutions tabled during this Assembly will be adopted by consensus along with the action oriented draft Ministerial Declaration that you have presented and for which you and your team have been deeply engaged throughout the

whole process of its elaboration, in an inclusive and transparent manner, in order to keep the balance and take into consideration the Group's major priorities. The Group is aware how difficult the task is, but remain confident in your able and steadfast leadership that can bring consensus.

Finally, Mme President,

10. The Group will continue working together hand-in-hand with other members of the United Nations towards the completion of the successful UNEA-6.

Thank you.