



**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
AT THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE ZERO DRAFT  
OF THE 2025 HLPF MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

**MONDAY, 5 MAY 2025**

***PART TWO***

***Priority actions for advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind***

We stress the need to strengthen the overall framing of the declaration by reaffirming international solidarity and cooperation as essential pillars for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and by explicitly stating that no country should be left behind. The principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, should be clearly reflected to ensure that equity and historical responsibilities are adequately addressed.

We believe it is important not to limit the implementation of the SDGs to two frameworks alone. The language from the 2024 HLPF Ministerial Declaration remains broadly acceptable and can serve as a better basis, with appropriate adjustments. In section two.

We also see the need to include a clear reference to the development of a system-wide inter-agency response plan for middle-income countries, in line with the Secretary-General's mapping exercise and consistent with the guidance of the 2024 QCPR. This is key to addressing the complex and multidimensional challenges faced by these countries.

The Group recommends including elements that are central to the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries. These include capacity-building and technology transfer, addressing data gaps, using scientific knowledge in policymaking, bridging digital and technological divides, and ensuring adequate, affordable, predictable, and sustainable financing for research and innovation.

The Group also emphasizes that any reference to the use of artificial intelligence and digital transformation must be grounded in principles of accessibility, affordability, and inclusiveness. Digital development cooperation must close

infrastructure gaps and enable full participation of developing countries in the digital economy, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

On water and sanitation, we highlight the urgency of addressing the lack of access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene, water-related disasters, water scarcity, and pollution. We also support the inclusion of references to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

We believe the text should also reflect commitments to mobilizing means of implementation for poverty eradication, support for national strategies and social protection systems, ending hunger and malnutrition, promoting sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, and reaffirming the right to adequate and nutritious food for all.

Finally, we propose a more integrated approach that highlights national leadership, regional collaboration, and global partnerships as mutually reinforcing levels of action, while maintaining the importance of broad stakeholder inclusion.