

Intervention of the Like-Minded Countries Supporters of Middle Income Countries.

## **High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017**

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Like-Minded Countries Supporters of Middle Income Countries. We commend the Presidency of the Economic and Social Council for convening the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Group wishes to underscore that the high-level political forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (based on para 2. A/RES/67/290)

We would like to call the attention on the importance to support and promote the principles of universality, integrality and the need to leave no one behind in the current exercise, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related processes.

Mr. President,

Our group considers fundamental to emphasize that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development. This is particularly crucial for the international community, given the large share of middle-income countries in terms of the world population and the global economy.

In order to ensure that achievements made to date by Middle Income Countries are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination, and better and focused support of the United Nations develop-

ment system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders. Policy coherence should be at the core of that cooperation and should be aligned with their national development plans and strategies, promoting their national capacities and addressing their vulnerabilities.

Mr. President,

We note with concern that there has been an important shift in the global distribution of poverty to middle-income countries. Nowadays, more than 70 per cent of the world's poor live in these countries. (Based on para 41. E/2017/64) To address these challenges, we believe that national experiences and capacities of middle-income countries need to be supported, strengthened and promoted in order to facilitate their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The multiplier effect of such cooperation will benefit other middle-income countries, least-developed countries and even developed countries.

As a result, we believe that the concerns of the Middle-Income Countries should bring together all groups of countries in special situations, especially considering that, as countries move from a low-income to a middle-income level, the international cooperation is significantly reduced, limiting their ability to address their specific challenges and achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, we call for an open dialogue on “development in transition” and an approach that encourages a new perspective to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual.

Mr. President,

We call upon the United Nations development system to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and their development objectives, and requests the system to address, within existing resources and mandates, the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 7 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (Para. 10 A/RES/71/243)

We want to highlight the need for the continuing engagement of the international community in Middle-Income Countries, which should be tailored to specific country needs, and the further

development cooperation of the United Nations system. We also recognize the need to devise methodologies to better account for the complex and diverse realities of these countries, reflecting the multidimensional nature of development and poverty.

Mr. President,

We conclude by stressing that achieving the sustainable development goals in their three dimensions will be impossible unless the economic and social problems of the Middle-Income Countries are addressed, and their active engagement is enlisted at both the national and the international level.

Thank you.