Madam President,
Distinguished Members of the Board
The UNDP Administrator

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your able leadership during the challenging times. The Group also wishes to thank UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner, for the report on the work of the Organization.

Madam President,

In 2021, multiple crises threatened global development gains. While the world is still reeling from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenge of climate change, the current geopolitical tension is coup de grâce to achieving the 2030 Agenda within the remaining decade of action, if we don’t commit to bold and immediate actions.

The compounded challenges of unsustainable debt burden; rising commodity prices and inflation; increase in borrowing cost; and liquidity constraints are compelling many governments in the developing countries to make the hard choices between saving people’s lives and repaying their debts.

These extreme financial difficulties have already pushed some developing countries to default; others may follow the suit.

The United Nations Development System has a crucial role to play in supporting countries’ national efforts to achieve the SDGs and meeting the development challenge. The Group appreciates the efforts by the UNDP in helping the developing countries in this regard.
The Executive Board’s role is to ensure that implementing agencies are equipped with right tools to address those challenges. To guide the work of the board, allow me to highlight some of the Group’s priorities

**First,** eradication of poverty must remain the core focus of the UNDP work.

**Second,** while the Group appreciates the work done by the UNDP in supporting developing countries, there is a dire need to further expand this support.

**Third,** the access to liquidity must be complemented by other immediate measures, including by fulfillment of the longstanding commitments of the 0.7% of GNI ODA and $100 billion in annual Climate Finance by developed countries; the emergency measures to address debt distress in many developing countries and re-channeling of at least US$ 250 billions of un-utilized SDRs to developing countries in need of liquidity.

**Fourth,** more concerted efforts are needed to ensure universal access to social protection measures as a means of saving lives and livelihoods.

**Fifth,** mobilization of adequate investment in quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure in energy, agriculture, communications, transport, and technology should be a part of synergetic strategy for COVID-19 recovery, sustainable development, and climate action.

**Madam President,**

The Group has a serious concern about the trend of major cuts in core allocation for development.

These funding cuts not only threaten pervasive imbalance between core and non-core-resources, but also the long-term viability of the UN development pillar, which contributes to efforts for peacebuilding, addresses risks for development programming, and fosters resilience.

The Group highlights that at a time when the world is experiencing humanitarian emergencies and a global development crisis is also imminent, the cuts in core funding of the UNDP could affect the most vulnerable, stall the development process and damage developmental institutional capacities to deliver.

In many ways, this would be the opposite of what the world needs at a moment.
The Group strongly underscores the high level of importance that the programme countries accord to the core development mandate of the UN Development Agencies, in particular UNDP, and we would like to stress the importance and necessity of core resources for the UNDP to deliver on its important mandates.

The Group looks forward to a constructive discussion during this session of the Executive Board and we look forward to strengthening our close cooperation with UNDP with the aim of achieving long-term development.