



**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**

Regarding SDG 8, we appreciate that some important issues for the Group have been taken on board in this section.

We, however, highlight that references throughout the text must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Some language proposal included therein such as freely chosen employment and “sustainable development growth”, do not mirror the 2030 Agenda.

Other references, such as the ones related to social protection systems and international labor standards, need to be better framed.

On another note, we will be proposing to move the reference on the Second World Summit for Social Development to section I. WSSD goes beyond SDG 8 and it can be better placed in that general section.

The Group believes that the following key actions on SDG8 are missing in the Zero Draft, and need to be addressed:

- 1- Recognize the important role of social and solidarity economy as a driver for inclusive and sustainable development growth.
- 2- Highlight the need to integrate youth in the evolving labour markets and ensure their access to decent jobs.
- 3- Scale up investments in digital infrastructure, capacity-building and technology transfer, to ensure that developing countries benefit from the digital economy. Address opportunities, risks and challenges posed by new technologies, including AI, on the workplace and the workforce.
- 4- Recognize the positive contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and social and economic development.
- 5- Emphasize global cooperation in skill development, including mutual recognition of skills and qualifications to facilitate labor mobility.
- 6- Support the formalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises as drivers of inclusive growth and decent jobs, as well as support cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies
- 7- Support tourism in a sustainable manner, benefiting local communities and creating decent job opportunities for all.