



G-15 Joint Statement
to the United Nations Environment Assembly,
23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries that aim for mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration while realizing sustainable development and economic progress. Our Group is deeply pleased to be associated with the Second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
2. The G-15 believes that the UNEA is an important world body that places environmental issues at the heart of international affairs and provides fresh impetus to tackle growing global challenges. The first UNEA in 2014 marked a milestone in the four decade-long journey to accord environmental issues the same status as the challenges to peace, security, finance, health and trade. Our Group particularly welcomes this year's theme, "Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which is most opportune as humanity commences on its latest journey towards sustainable development while balancing the environmental, social and economic dimensions. This forum has provided the first global platform for reviewing progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption last year, particularly their environmental facets. This thematic focus will allow all relevant actors to identify concrete tools available to take an integrated and universal approach to the implementation of the SDGs, including those related to critical areas such as air quality, healthy ecosystems, marine debris, chemicals, wastes and others that may emerge in the preparatory process as well as to develop strategic, multi-stakeholder partnership to address on-going and emerging environmental issues.
3. We are a Group which believes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for the 'people, planet and prosperity' built on the three pillars of social, economic and environment of the SDGs. The Foreign Ministers of our Group have identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South. As the 2030 Agenda comes into effect this year, renewing global norms for development in the next 15 years, we welcome this timely discussion in this august Assembly.
4. In recent years our Group has constructively engaged with international organizations, particularly those based in Geneva and actively involved in the shaping of global processes such as the Development Agenda. In 2015 the G-15 in collaboration with the South Centre engaged with 14 international organizations involved in Post-2015 Development. In a series of three symposia, one was completely dedicated to discuss the environmental facets of the Development Agenda. The G-15, in February 2016 held follow up symposium on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda which was open to all countries of the Global South. We are also happy to note that the G-15 has taken active part in other global processes, associated with the Development Agenda, in particular the

Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The G-15 also notes that nearly half of the 2030 Agenda's 17 SDGs focus on the environment or the sustainability of natural resources. These include the goals on poverty, health, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, human settlements, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, oceans and terrestrial ecosystems.

5. The G-15 calls for greater cooperation in capacity building and technology transfers, especially in promoting green technologies and renewable energy. The use of renewable energy can improve the security, diversity, and overall reliability of national energy systems, particularly in developing countries. Renewables can also ensure the vital link between electrification and economic security. These can provide solutions to larger environmental and social issues such as energy access, food security, health, job creation and others, resulting in a healthier environment and a healthier people.
6. In conclusion the G-15 acknowledges the important role that needs to be played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the 2030, Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially towards reaching relevant environmental targets. As a Group of developing countries the G-15 remains ready for further enhanced cooperation with the UNEP and other agencies in achieving this shared goal.

Thank you.