Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 16, the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.40: “Information and Communications Technologies for Development”.

The draft resolution acknowledges the positive trends in the global connectivity and affordability of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world’s population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society.

However, in spite of recent progress, there remains an important and growing digital divide between countries in terms of the availability and affordability of and access to broadband and the use of information and communications technologies.

In this regard, the draft encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating new and additional resources.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19 (a), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.33: "Implementation Of Agenda 21, The Programme for the Further Implementation Of Agenda 21 and the Outcomes of the World Summit On Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference On Sustainable Development".

The draft resolution recognises that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries.

The draft takes note of resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council; resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the reports of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies and on the establishment of a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries.

It also welcomes the outcome document of the special event to follow-up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which acknowledged the processes mandated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way. These processes should complete their work in a comprehensive, balanced and expeditious manner by September 2014 in order to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus. I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19 (b), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.41: “Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing State”.

The draft resolution reaffirms the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

In this regard, the draft decides that the theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 shall be “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”, and also decides that the Conference should serve as a forum to launch innovative and concrete partnerships to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States. We look forward to a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document coming out of the Conference.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19 (c), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.39: "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction".

The draft resolution reiterates that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain most vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and climate change, and that they need adequate international assistance for the development and strengthening of their capacities in the areas of disaster prevention and building resilience.

It stresses the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages all States and relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development.

The draft also encourages the promotion of a complementary and coherent approach to the relationship between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the post-2015 development agenda.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19 (f), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.42: “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development”.

The draft resolution underscores the three key objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions. These objectives are the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The draft calls upon Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities.

It further calls upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to increase and improve their cooperation for technology transfer and capacity-building for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular with regard to innovation capacities applied to the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with such resources in developing countries.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19 (g), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.32: "report of the governing council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session".

The draft resolution urges the Programme to provide coherent support to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields.

In this regard, it reiterates the continuing need for the Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision making processes at all levels.

The draft further requests the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs of the Programme under review in order to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the ongoing institutional reform related to the work of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 19(h), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.43: “Harmony with Nature”.

The draft resolution recognizes that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and is convinced that, in order to achieve a just balanced among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature.

In this regard, the draft resolution calls for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 21 (c), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.25 "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries".

The draft resolution recalls that despite notable reductions in extreme poverty, middle-income countries as a group are still home to approximately two third of the world population that lives in poverty, and that efforts to address those challenges should be supported in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, including through support to the effective development of comprehensive cooperation policies.

The draft recognizes the need for the UN system and international community to continue providing development assistance to middle-income countries while taking into account the development needs and support for the Least Developed Countries.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 21 (d), the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.34: “Culture and Sustainable Development”.

There is now a clear recognition of the role of culture as an enabler and a driver of development. Culture is also recognised as an important contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as to peace and security.

Culture as an enabler of development provides peoples and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and as it allows development interventions to be more effective and sustainable. Culture as a driver of development contributes to a strong and viable economic sector, generating income, creating jobs and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, while providing innovative and effective solutions to cross-cutting issues, such as education, health, gender equality and the environment.

The General Assembly resolution adopted by consensus in 2011 sent a very important message concerning the integration of the cultural dimension into development policies and strategies and the role of Member States and the UN Development System in that regard. There has been progress in integrating culture in development but there is room for improvement. We need to work harder to anchor culture and to integrate it within the development strategies and policies since it can accelerate the achievement of universally agreed development goals.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, under the agenda item 25, the draft resolution A/C2/68/L.28: *Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition*.

The draft resolution expresses concern on the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition. It calls for a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community to address the crises. This coordinated response includes the fulfilment of commitments made to achieve global food security and to provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels.

The draft draws attention to the need to take urgent measures to reduce food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, occur in both low- and high-income countries at all stages of the food supply chain, as well as the consumption stage.

The draft also urges Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of national, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder and women farmers in developing countries. It stresses the importance to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security.

The Group looks forward to the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus.

I thank you.