**INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE LIKE-MINDED GROUP FOR MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES**

**Wednesday, 12 February 2025 – 10am**

**International development cooperation.**

I have the honor to deliver this intervention on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries for Middle-Income Countries composed of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Uruguay, and my own country Morocco.

**This action area on international development cooperation is of utmost importance for the LMG-MICs**. In this regard we would like to advance the following comments on its content:

1. On paragraph 37, under the subtitle Official development assistance: we expect that the document will reflect on the persistent important of ODA for an important number of Middle-Income Countries. We would like then to suggest the following : We acknowledge that ODA and other concessional finance are still important for a number of middle-income countries.
2. Under ODA as well, we would like to emphasis on enhancing the flexibility, adequacy, and predictability of ODA allocation to enable the multilateral system to effectively deliver on sustainable development. This includes ensuring that ODA remains stable and responsive to evolving needs, reducing earmarking to allow for greater alignment with recipient country priorities, and strengthening multi-year funding arrangements to improve planning and implementation.
3. We would like to have **a specific paragraph on the elaboration of a specific interagency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan for middle-income countries** under this section, **drafted in an implementation-oriented manner with a specific timeline and scope** rather than a limited reference to welcoming the call for the advancement. The system-wide strategy should also inform the elaboration of a long-term programe of work to support middle-income countries. We will provide specific language on this point.

1. **Hence, paragraph 10 of the preambular section shall focus on the specific needs of MICs and the need to provide tailored support to middle-income countries in a manner that addresses their specific challenges while mindful of their diversity. As agreed in QCPR 2024.**
2. **On beyond GDP: under paragraph J.** we believe that FFD4 should send a strong political call to urgently advance on the mandate agreed on for the Pact for the Future for initiating the process to develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product. **we will provide specific language in this regard.**
3. **While we appreciate the reference to the mandate of the Pact for the Future, this paragraph could benefit from a clarification on the way forward on the role given to the MDBs, with a specific timeline, approach, and linkages with the upcoming intergovernmental process on measures of progress that go beyond gross domestic product (GDP). we will provide specific language in this regard.**