**Statement on the section on International Trade Art. 43 (f) and Art. 46.**

Thank you madam Co-facilitator

 First, we endorse the statements delivered on behalf of the G77 and China and the Africa Group, by the delegates of Iran and Angola, respectively.

In particular, we echo the comments of the African Group on paragraph 43 (f) on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, which we consider as the largest regional trade agreement, with the potential to boost South-South trade and regional integration. We reiterate the need to strengthen the language to underscore the imperative for international assistance; including technical support and capacity building to enable the regional free trade area achieve the noble objectives for which it was established.

Our delegation is also pleased with the provision of Art 46 on trade in critical minerals and commodities. Africa has comparative advantage in this area, due to its vast reserves of critical minerals and other natural endowments. Without any specific reference to Africa in this paragraph, we risk losing the potential benefits that the future outcome document could bring to the continent. To address this gap, we propose strengthening the language to specifically highlight Africa’s strength on trade in minerals and commodities and the need to support the continent in the area of finance mobilization and capacity building, as a catalyst for value added industrialization, which we consider as a major objective of FfD.

Thank you, madam chair.

**Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN**

Headquarters,

12th February 2025