

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva*

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### **Philippines cites G77 and China constructive spirit as key to rebooting development agenda**



**Left: Barbadian Ambassador and G77 and China Chair Chad Blackman welcomes Philippine Ambassador Evan P. Garcia to the G77 and China Retreat in Geneva on 13 May 2022; Right: Ambassador Garcia caucuses with other G77 Ambassadors before the beginning of their retreat on 13 May 2022.**

16 May 2022, Geneva – Philippine Permanent Representative Evan P. Garcia encouraged the Group of Seventy-Seven (G77) and China to enhance engagement on cross-cutting issues like climate change, digitalization, and financing for development at a rare gathering of the group’s ambassadors in Geneva last Friday, 13 May.

Ambassador Garcia joined other Geneva-based envoys to brainstorm on “rethinking and repurposing” the G77 in a closed-door retreat. Chairs of the G77 and China chapters in Geneva, New York, Vienna, Nairobi, Rome, and Paris also joined the meeting.

G77 and China Geneva Chapter Chair and Barbadian Permanent Representative Chad Blackman convened the said retreat “to discuss strategic issues,” particularly “in light of the increasing need for the group to collectively take tock of current global challenges developing countries face, and to seek to implement the Bridgetown Covenant.”

The Bridgetown Covenant is the outcome document adopted by Member States of the U.N. Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) during their 15<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference here last year. It envisions transformation in the areas of economic diversification, sustainability and resilience, development financing, and multilateralism.

There is broad agreement among the G77 ambassadors that implementing the Bridgetown Covenant requires the “revitalization” of both UNCTAD and the G77.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebecca Grynspan had earlier unveiled her own vision for transforming UNCTAD, beginning with the circulation of a draft technical cooperation strategy that seeks to streamline UNCTAD’s assistance for developing countries. The Philippines, along with ASEAN Member States, has expressed support for this.

Speaking on behalf of G77’s Asia-Pacific Group, which the Philippines coordinates, Ambassador Garcia stressed that rebooting the G77 and China requires “a constructive spirit” and an “openness to work with all development partners,” including those outside the group.

Established in 1964 in Geneva, the G77 is a negotiating bloc that promotes the interests of developing countries and advocates for equity in international relations. China is an observer in the group, which has chapters in Geneva, New York, Vienna, Rome, and Nairobi. **END**