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**Statement delivered by
Her Excellency Nataline Edward Mou
Chairperson of the G77 and China
on the occasion of the
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)
25 June 2019**

Thank you, Mr Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva for his wise leadership, as well I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu the new Director-General of FAO.

South Sudan has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on Agenda Item 10, The State of Food and Agriculture: Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development and would like to highlight the following;

The group of G77 and China acknowledge the SOFA key findings of challenges and opportunities of migration in terms of economic, social and human development as a mean of reducing inequality both within and between countries. Rural migration constitutes a considerable portion of both internal and international migration flows. Policy coherence between migration, agriculture and rural development policies is essential to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. In consideration, countries in protracted crises, rural youth employment challenges and countries of economic and demographic transition situation.

Mr Chair, the Group reiterates that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is the main goal of the 2030 Agenda and remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

However, understanding contemporary migration, both international and internal, remains a challenge. The decision by people to migrate either within their own countries or across borders is influenced by an intricate set of factors. This SOFA report examines the complex interlinkages between migration, agriculture, food security and rural development and the factors that determine the decision of rural people to migrate; including economic factors, employment opportunities, conflict, poverty, hunger, environmental degradation and climate shocks.

In this regard, we stress the importance of FAO as a strategic partner to play a key role together with other sources of international resource mobilization to support the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and promote the right of peoples to development, as a key instrument to control migration flows, encouraging agriculture for both rural and urban youth.

We emphasize that migration-related policies must aim at making migration a choice, not a necessity. They should consider both the benefits as well as the costs of this phenomenon, for the migrants themselves and for societies in general, which may lead to the definition of different priorities according to country contexts.

Therefore, it is imperative to address these challenges on the basis of common responsibility of all nations, genuine partnership and common understanding, in order to ensure that international migrations can contribute to the development of both origin and destination countries maximizing the positive impacts, while minimizing the negative ones.

Mr. Chair, the Group of 77 is confident that this overview of the State of Food and Agriculture will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between migration and rural

development. In doing so, it will help improve the work of Member States, the international community and United Nations agencies towards ensuring that international migrations contribute to the development of both sending and receiving countries while protecting the human rights of all migrants.

Mr. Chair, many rural areas in the developing countries have poor levels of infrastructure development in roads, railways, waterways and air transport, which open up areas for prospective investors; provide access to markets and raw materials. The underdevelopment of these forms of infrastructures in rural areas is an indication of underdevelopment, and rural development policies must seriously address challenges in a broader sense.

It is important to enhance the contributions migrants make to the development of their rural areas of origin through remittances and in other ways. It is also important to recognise the skills that migrants bring into the economic system of Member States that contributes to economic growth and alleviation of poverty. Several policy areas can contribute, including facilitating and reducing the cost of sending remittances and promoting the investment of remittances in rural areas.

With these comments, the Group of 77 and China urges all Member States to renew their political will to address the challenges and opportunities of migration, both regular and irregular, in a balanced manner and to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration to achieve all SDGs by 2030, in particular SDG 1 on poverty eradication and SDG 2 on zero hunger.

Thank you Mr Chair.