We would like to join other delegations in thanking the co-facilitators for this opportunity to share our views on the Declaration commemorating 75 years of the United Nations. Like all such milestones, this is an opportunity to both reflect and look ahead.

2. At a time when the world is grappling with increasingly complex challenges, we need to reaffirm our collective commitment to multilateralism. While the centrality of multilateral institutions like the United Nations to international relations is recognized, if these institutions are to be relevant and credible, they must periodically undergo renewal and metamorphosis, so that they do not remain relics of an outdated geo-political construct of the 1940’s.

3. We believe that the section on “Looking Ahead” in the Food for Thought paper circulated by the co-Chairs is critical, as it asks what needs to be done to reinvigorate global governance. We agree fully with the suggestions made by Brazil on this subject. While we all may not agree on the specifics of reform, we can all agree that tangible progress on reform of the key organs of the UN, in particular the Security Council, is essential if we are to better address the many challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Our Declaration should reflect this.

4. Full and effective implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda will remain a priority in this Decade for Action. Recognizing and harnessing the agency of women and youth in development would be critical.

5. Much is being said about how rapid technological change and automation can upend the labour market. The positive role of technology as key driver for development is somewhat neglected. We must break the mistrust of technology. We need to harness the potential of emerging technologies to empower the poorest and most deprived. We envision a catalytic role for the UN in our quest for harnessing the potential of technology for transformative changes. UN can and should play a vital role in global norm setting as well as providing operational support required to maximize the role of technology as an ‘enabler’ and an ‘equalizer’.

6. There is a need for a renewed focus on education for inclusive growth. Access to STEM education especially for girls and, above all, linking education with employment opportunities are some of the defining challenges of our times. A 21st century education system needs to focus on developing human skills such as compassion, creativity, empathy,
critical thinking and communication. Apart from “touch screens” we need the human touch more than ever.

7. At a time when we are talking of generation equality, **closing the gender gap** in incomes and wages, providing social protection to workers in informal sectors and creation of more jobs in formal sector, addressing negative impacts of trade and investment policies on workers in informal sector including women, are areas that need greater focus and concerted action.

8. If we as citizens of this planet are going to have a decent shot at surviving the Anthropocene, we need to cut down the per-capita consumption of this planet. The objective of growth, growth and more growth may have made sense in the 20th century, but it is no longer fit for purpose. It is time to evolve towards a different kind of economy, focused on achieving well-being for all within the limit of our planet’s ecology.

9. Whether concise or not, let us have a Declaration we can all be proud of. We look forward to engaging constructively with you, co-Chairs, and all delegations to work towards this goal.

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