Letter dated 11 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Vice-President of the Council responsible for the humanitarian affairs segment

In my capacity as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, I have the pleasure of thanking you for your capable efforts as President of the Economic and Social Council and Chair of the Council’s humanitarian affairs segment in planning and organizing this year’s edition of this important event. Allow me also to congratulate the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Indonesia to the United Nations for their able conduct of the negotiations regarding the Council’s draft resolution on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. This text has a fundamental role in shaping humanitarian action worldwide, and its upcoming adoption in Geneva will be an important symbol of unity of purpose, especially in the face of the significant challenges currently faced by the international community in this field.

In keeping with this spirit of unity, the Group of 77 and China will support the draft resolution put under silence procedure on 3 June 2021. After substantive and productive negotiations, consensus was reached on all but one paragraph, “PP4 ter”, the latter part of which constitutes a co-facilitators’ proposal. While the text as a whole reflects a balanced and adequate approach to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the humanitarian field, among other pressing issues, the closing lines of this paragraph raise significant concerns for the Group.

The resolution adopted during the humanitarian affairs segment and the General Assembly “omnibus” resolution on humanitarian affairs complement each other and constitute the two most important texts adopted annually in the humanitarian sphere. When characterizing the coordination between humanitarian and development actors, these resolutions maintain an enduring standard of reaffirming the necessity of coordination with Member States hosting these actors’ activities, as well as the requirements of supporting national priorities and respecting humanitarian principles. Throughout the negotiations, the Group of 77 and China highlighted the essential nature of these provisions, which, among others, constitute a basic framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors. Unfortunately, these
elements were omitted in the co-facilitators’ proposal for “PP4 ter”, thus diverging from previously agreed language and from the paradigm set out in the aforementioned resolutions.

While joining consensus, the Group wishes to clarify, therefore, that it does not consider the latter part of “PP4 ter” (from “and also recognizing” onwards) to be agreed language or to constitute a precedent for future multilaterally negotiated texts.

In these circumstances, I kindly ask that the present letter be circulated among delegations in New York and that it be made available as part of the documentation of the 2021 humanitarian affairs segment of the Council.

(Signed) Aly Diane  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations  
Chair of the Group of 77