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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1990

Mr S S Zondo (IFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What are the full details of the Republic's (a) priorities and (b) expected outcomes in respect of the opportunity of assuming G20 presidency on 01 December 2024, considering that the G20 is a critical forum for global economic cooperation, influencing trade, investment and addressing pressing global issues such as sustainable development and economic recovery? NW3380E

REPLY:

South Africa assumes the G20 Presidency at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions, worsening climate-related challenges, fragmenting global supply chains, and growing economic disparities between developed and developing nations. Within this global context, many regions and localities are increasingly vulnerable to the adverse distributive impacts of globalisation and trade. Rising inequalities and unemployment have exacerbated feelings of exclusion and discontent, making it harder to build consensus around policies that promote global integration. In response, many countries have turned to trade-restrictive measures aimed at addressing domestic vulnerabilities.

- (a) South Africa has adopted as the theme for its G20 Presidency: 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainable Development'. We aim to mobilise the G20 towards taking practical steps that will resolve global challenges, while strengthening international cooperation within a rules-based system.

In an interconnected world, the global challenges require a coordinated response. Through solidarity we seek to advance a unified effort and mutual support among member nations. SA will use the G20 Presidency to advocate for issues of interest to the African Continent and the global South and mobilise support for Africa's development priorities. In doing so, we will build on the efforts and successes of previous G20 Presidencies, in particular, the Indonesian, Indian and Brazilian G20 Presidencies. South Africa's G20 Presidency will place Africa's developmental priorities at the top of its agenda and we will be guided by the priorities contained in the AU's *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*.

- (b) Accordingly, SA's G20 presidency will be leveraged to encourage Members to strengthen their concerted effort to promote inclusivity in trade for growth, develop principles to ensure a responsive trade agenda to address challenges of the global commons, develop a common G20 framework to promoting inclusive green industrialisation and climate resilience, and to continue dialogue on reform at the WTO, including how the WTO can advance the development dimension to ensure that the multilateral trading system contributes to sustainable development.

With these proposed key priorities areas, SA's presidency can strategically assist the G20 in shifting focus from firefighting against successive shocks to a medium-term agenda that supports resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and development.

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