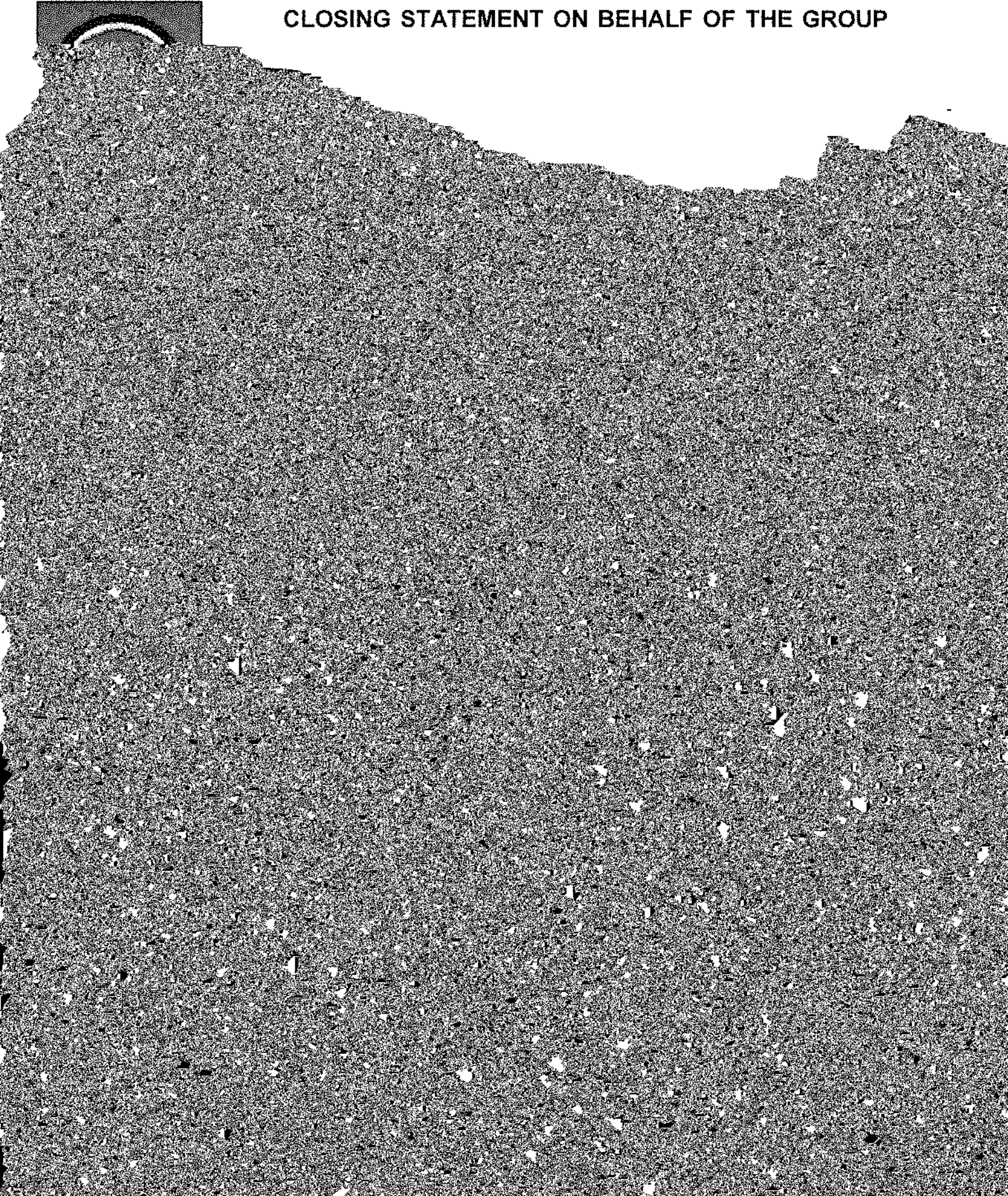
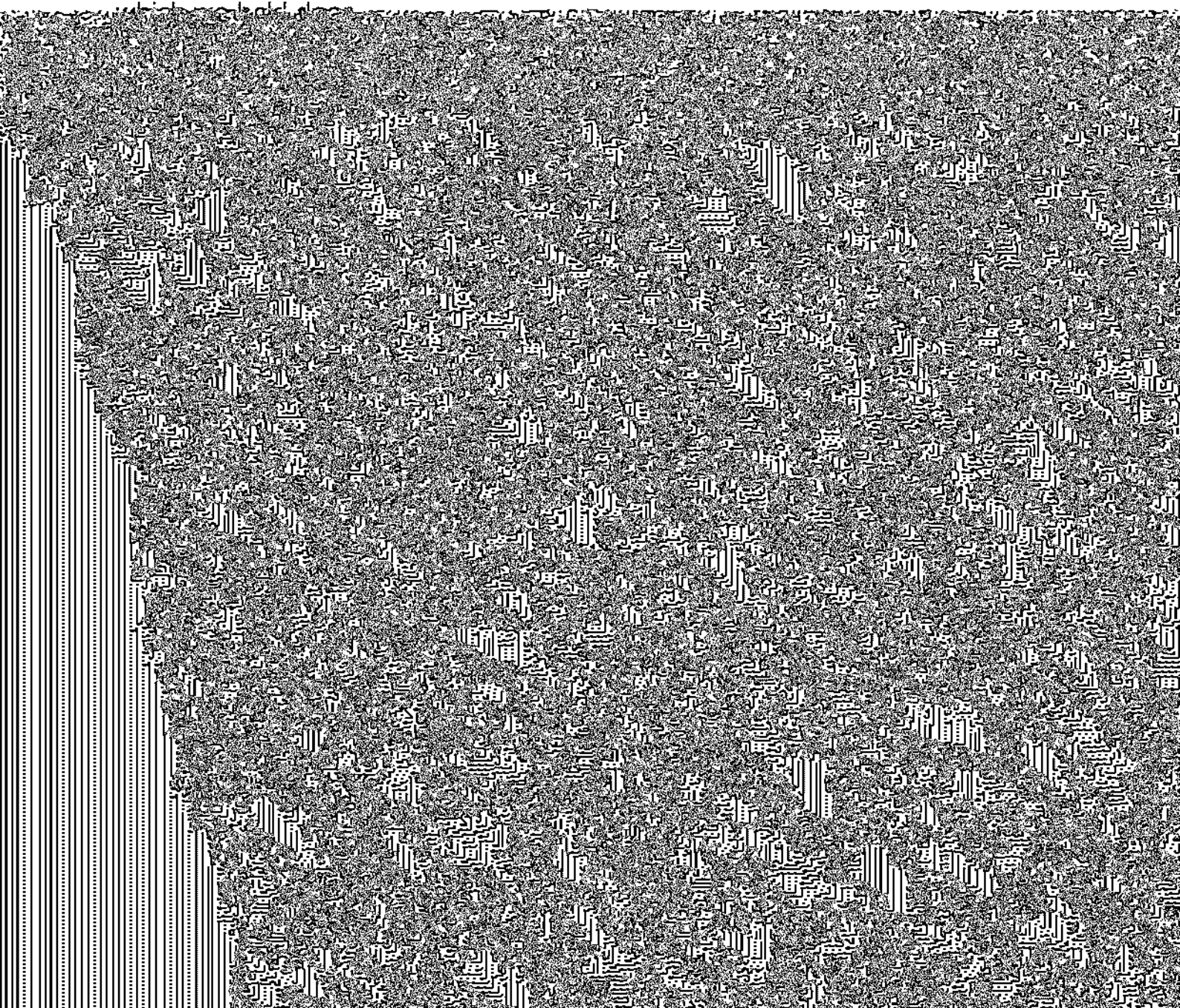


CLOSING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP



In January of this year, when South Africa assumed the Chair of the Group of the G77 and China, we looked forward to reaffirming the principles of the Group and to strengthen its unity, cohesion and vision of a fair and equitable multilateral system. We also looked forward to ensuring that we collectively enhance the development agenda of the South, especially as it relates to the outcomes of the major development-related UN Conferences on the calendar for this year.

In the process of the protracted negotiations that have taken place over the last six months or so, the Group's resolve has affirmed the core principles

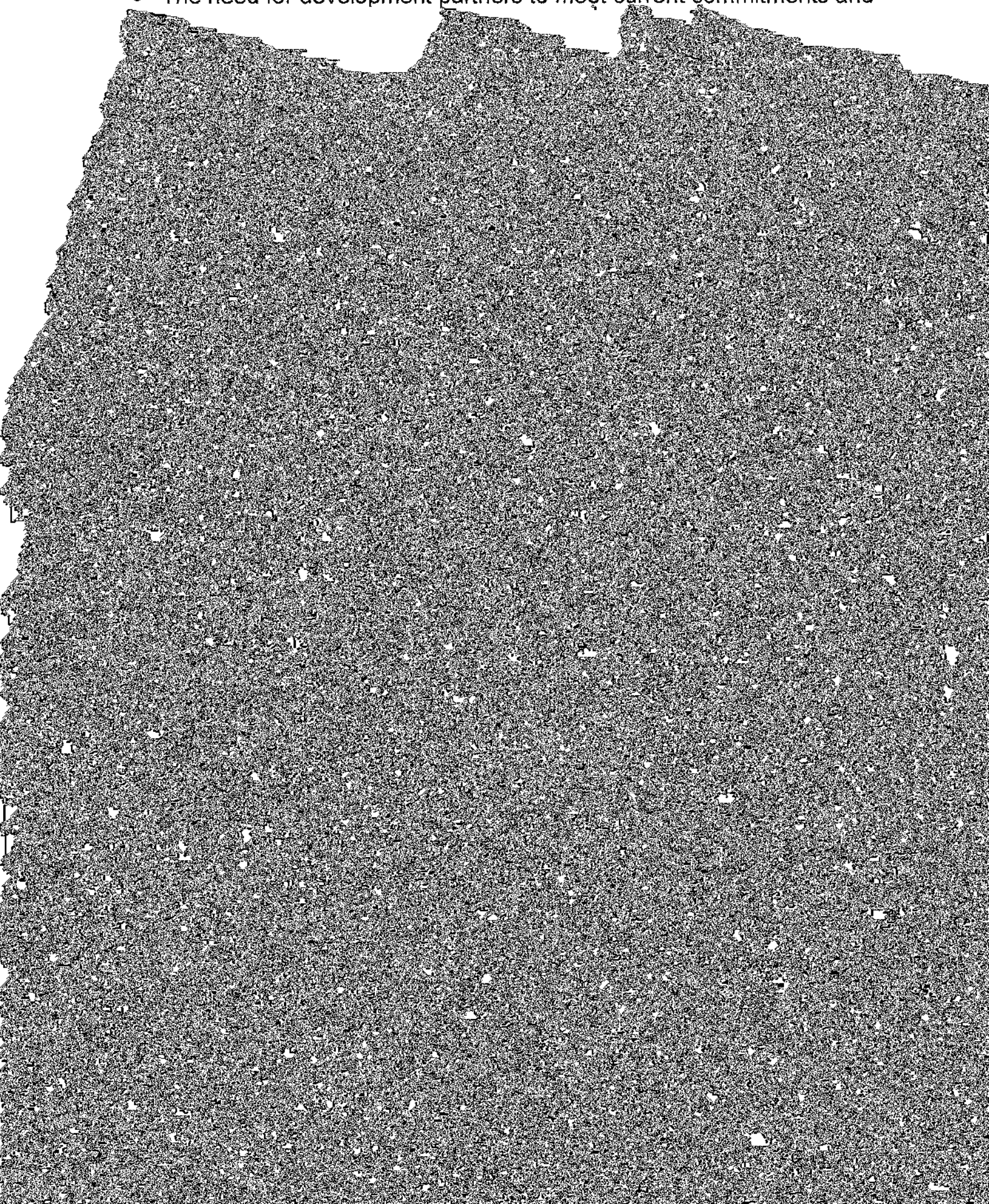


sleepless nights - in an attempt to address the critical obstacles to development and to work together towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms.

Mr President

The G77 and China recognizes that progress has been achieved

- The need for development partners to meet current commitments and



important principles and issues in other relevant fora and on future occasions. Rest assured that the Group is not abandoning its principled positions. If anything, we are seized with the importance of ensuring that the global partnership for development is genuine and adequately resourced for