

## **African Group Intervention during the Session on Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth**

**Mr. President,**

Allow to thank Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD for her opening remark and the distinguished panellists for their informative presentations regarding the economic development in Africa with focus on the role Tourism can play to attain the transformative and inclusive growth. It is timely to choose this topic for this Session in line with The United Nations designation of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in accordance with para 55 (o) of the Maafikiano which calls upon UNCTAD to continue its assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in strengthening their capacities to harness the potential of tourism that may positively contribute to inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and graduation from the least developed countries category in cooperation, where appropriate, with other relevant agencies”

**Mr. President.**

The African Group associates itself with intervention made by Tanzania on behalf of G77 and China. The Group acknowledges the assistance provided by UNCTAD in supporting to Africa Region through research, analysis and technical assistance aiming to develop the tourism sector for transformative and inclusive growth in Africa.

The African Group believes that tourism can be an engine for inclusive growth and economic development as stipulated in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the Tourism Action Plan under its New Partnership for Africa’s Development which recognize tourism’s importance in driving Africa’s socioeconomic development and structural transformation through job creation, in catalysing growth in other productive sectors and in fostering inclusion through the participation of women and youth in the sector’s activities.

**Mr. President,**

The African Group calls upon UNCTAD to continue its efforts in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations, as

well as with the support of donor countries, to enhance its activities to support multilateral efforts for development of sustainable tourism. The Group further calls UNCTAD to promote a portfolio of services for the development of tourism in Africa through research, analysis and technical assistance to support transformative and inclusive growth in Africa.

**I thank you Mr. President.**