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Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session
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**Plenary on Item 6:
Economic development in Africa: Intra-African trade:
Unlocking Private Sector Dynamism**

Speaker: GRULAC

Thursday, 19 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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**Statement by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
(GRULAC) at the sixtieth session of the Trade and Development Board**

**Item 6 - Economic Development in Africa: Intra-African trade:
Unlocking private sector dynamism**

Thursday, 19 September 2013

Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Abdul Samad Minty (South Africa),
Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special
Programmes,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

1. My delegation would like to congratulate UNCTAD's Secretariat, on behalf of the Latin American Group, for the analysis contained in the 2013 Report on Economic Development in Africa, the focus of which lies on unlocking private sector dynamism and boosting intra-African trade, as well as discussing an alternative approach to regional integration and development in Africa, called developmental regionalism.

2. As we are all aware, the African continent faces many challenges in many different areas, including economic growth. However, if we look at the numbers and compare the period between 1996 and 2000 with the period from 2007 to 2011, the African output has almost tripled. This shows that with the right stimulus and proper policies the African continent has a chance to keep growing.

3. When it comes to trade, while the levels of intraregional trade in Africa have not yet achieved its full potential, it has been increasing. In 2011, African trade summed up US\$ 130.1 billion an increase of 181% since 1995. Regional trading agreements have of course been important in supporting intra-African trade. We must seek to multiply this positive impact.

Mr. President,

4. Regional economic integration must be thought of as a path to ensure that Africa's integration in the world market will bear lasting fruits for the entire continent, with a sustained growth that ensures social development.

5. In this regard, the report is keen on highlighting the concept of developmental regionalism, a (quote) "development-based integration agenda aimed at securing the traditional benefits of regional integration ensuring that such benefits flow to all member countries and seeking to enhance the integration of member countries into world markets as a means of fostering sustainable development" (end of quote). Developmental regionalism comprises a variety of policy tools such as the provision of infrastructure and other public goods, investment, promotion of research and development, development of an effective competition policy framework, and building the domestic productive capacities of both the private sector and State-owned enterprises.

6. The sustainability of growth in the African continent depends on investments in infrastructure and productive capacity. Equally important is the provision of demand-driven technical cooperation and transfer of technology, an area where the contribution of developed partners must play a vital role.

7. Even though all countries are faced with the uncertainties and consequences of the current economic and financial crisis, this should not be used as a reason for diminishing or otherwise curtailing assistance and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly to African countries.

Mr. President,

8. Success in boosting intra-African trade will depend on the extent to which African countries are able to foster entrepreneurship, build supply capacity, strengthen their domestic markets, develop the regional infra-structure and make progress in the integration of markets with in the continent. The contribution of UNCTAD's findings contained in this report and UNCTAD's technical cooperation support remain indispensable tools to achieve those goals.

Thank you.

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