

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

**Plenary on Item 7:**  
**Evolution of the international trading system**  
**and its trends from a development perspective**

**Speaker: GRULAC**

**Monday, 23 September 2013**

*Not checked against delivery \**

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**Statement by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States  
(GRULAC)**

**Sixtieth Session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD**

**Item 7 - Evolution of the International Trading System and its trends  
from a development perspective**

*Monday, 23 September 2013*

Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo (Indonesia)  
Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
H.E. Mr. Joakim Reiter, Ambassador of Sweden to the World Trade Organization,  
Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director, Division for International Trade in Goods and Services, and  
Commodities, UNCTAD  
Mr. Simon Cleasby, Chief Executive Officer, Addax Bioenergy,  
Mr. Mark Halle, Director, Trade and Investment Programme, Institute for Sustainable Development,  
Mr. Aurelio Parisotto, Senior Economist, Multilateral Cooperation Department, International Labour  
Organization,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

My delegation is privileged to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) at this 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Trade and Development Board. At the outset, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Board on your appointment. I would also like to thank the speakers this morning for their rich contribution to our debate on the agenda item before us.

Mr President,

1. The Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC) is highly dependent on international trade. The region is comprised of countries at varying levels of development, ranging from small and vulnerable economies with GDP of \$ 712 million to large economies with GDP of \$2.2 trillion. We are therefore interested in a global trade and economic framework that can facilitate sustainable growth and development for all developing countries especially the most vulnerable. This must include effective programmes to enable full integration into the Multilateral Trade System.

2. Terms of trade for most countries in the region are gradually deteriorating. After a modest upturn in the first quarter of 2012, trade flows to and from the Latin American and Caribbean region slowed heavily in the second quarter. The region's export value growth has slipped steadily in year-on-year terms, from 29.1% in the second quarter of 2011 to negative 1.5% in the second quarter of 2012. Share in world services exports which account for 63 percent of the region's GDP also fell from 4 percent to 3.5 percent. External shocks, high levels of debt as well as challenges in the competitiveness of productive capacity are all impediments to enhanced trade performance in the region.

Mr. President,

3. The region is focussed on shaping effective mechanisms to enable advances in trade prospect and performance. In this regard, LAC members are active in negotiations in the WTO framework and deliberations on Trade and Development in UNCTAD. The LAC region values greatly the initiatives such as Aid for Trade (AfT) and the trade related support extended by bodies such as UNCTAD and the ITC.

4. International trade in goods and services is the foundation of economic prosperity. However, for trade to play the leading role in development, we must continue to promote and strive for an open, rules-based, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. LAC Members remain committed to this goal and are contributing to efforts to secure a meaningful outcome in Bali and a reinvigoration of the negotiating pillar of the WTO in a realistic and progressive Post-Bali work programme.

5. In closing Mr. President, we must ensure that the evolution of international trade is not left to chance or the will of the few. We must ensure that the principle of a partnership for development which guides our work here in UNCTAD is reflected in the international trading arena at all levels.

Thank You.

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