

**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group  
General Debate  
63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Trade and Development Board (TDB)  
5 December 2016**

**Mr. Vice-President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group.

**Mr. Vice-President,**

We would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. The work done by your predecessor, Ambassador Alfredo Suescum of Panama is commendable, in particular his leadership that led to a successful conclusion of the UNCTAD 14.

We fully associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also thank the Secretary General for his remarks.

**Mr. Vice-President,**

Nairobi Maafakiano is a landmark agreement that has laid the ground to address longstanding and emerging challenges to developing countries in the areas of trade and development. Its test lies in the full implementation of consensus reached at Nairobi. Towards this goal, we have to take important decisions on a range of issues in this TDB.

We have to remind ourselves that the Conference was established half a century ago to fulfill the demands of developing countries which continued to confront obstacles and barriers at international level in realizing their true economic potential. We recognize that the situation has improved considerably in few areas and geographical regions. The Conference, ably supported by its Secretariat, have contributed enormously in furthering these fundamental objectives.

However, many of developing countries are still encountering challenges at all levels including and in particular, imbalances in international economic and trade regimes. Developing countries are particularly beset by slow growth rate, current state of international trading system, macroeconomic instability, mounting debt problems, massive capital flights often in the form of illicit financial flows, declining demand, tax avoidance and tax evasion. The Conference's significance hinges on its ability to continue providing a reliable platform for addressing these issues by developing countries.

**Mr. Vice-President,**

This July in Nairobi, Member States took a step in the right direction towards strengthening the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, which is *raison d'être* of the Conference. Intergovernmental machinery should remain at the heart of UNCTAD while appropriately backed by other two pillars, namely policy analysis and technical assistance. Two intergovernmental groups of experts, agreed at Nairobi, should come up with strong policy recommendations that could serve as important instrument in their respective areas. Intergovernmental group of experts on “Financing for Development” should particularly offer substantial input to the FfD process in which UNCTAD is an institutional stakeholder.

Needless to say, this small step is a first step only. We hope that UNCTAD XV will further consolidate this process with even ambitious program of work for intergovernmental machinery. Outcome of this process will promote further understanding between developed and developing countries on important issues concerning trade and development.

**Mr. Vice-President,**

One of the important tasks before this TDB is to take appropriate decisions under agenda item 7 – that requires action by the TDB concerning host of issues in the follow-up to the UNCTAD 14. We encourage all Member States to take decisions continuing with the constructive spirit that led us to Nairobi Outcome.

We also have to take appropriate decision regarding the possible restructuring of the Secretariat. We appreciate the Secretary General's efforts towards transparency and accountability and sharing of information in this regard. Member States should take all aspects into account while taking a final decision. Importantly, we need to understand the implications, budgetary and substantial, on its important work that will accrue through any possible restructuring.

**Mr. Vice-President,**

We will continue our constructive engagement during this TDB and beyond in order to arrive at a mutually agreed and effective outcome of our deliberations.

I thank you.