



**Closing statement by H.E. Dr. James Alex Msekela,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, Chairman  
of the Group of 77 and China  
at the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board**

*Friday, 22 September 2017*

**Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi (Moldova)  
Madame Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Isabelle Durant,  
Distinguished delegates,**

**Mr. President,**

1. Firstly and foremost, we would like to thank you for you steering us through this Trade and Development Board (TDB). We thank your efforts in making this a productive TDB and you can count with our continued support to deliver results during your presidency.
2. With relation to this TDB that we are concluding now, the Group of 77 and China would like to make some remarks.

**Mr. President,**

3. We regret that although the group presented a proposal for agreed conclusions for each agenda item in a timely manner, these were not discussed in substance during the TDB.
4. We recall that the G77 proposal was circulated before the draft agreed conclusions of items 5 and 6, leaving time for proper consideration by member States.
5. We express deep concern that we did not see a spirit of positive engagement even with regards to the agreed conclusions on **item 5** - Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and **item 6** - Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth,
6. Our proposal was not about phase-II. It was about the agenda items in this TDB. Again, we must regret that we appear to be incapable of giving due and formal consideration of proposals presented by member States. We feel that the proposal presented by Belarus - definitely positive and worth considering - might have also been given the same undue treatment.
7. A structural problem that might have favored such situation is the lack of appropriate time allocation for consideration of such proposals. This is something that we note with concern and has to be solved by the Secretariat for future TDBs.

**Mr. President,**

8. Let me go through some of the points that we had considered important to register in our proposed agreed conclusions on:

- (a) **Item 2 - High-level dialogue: Is the world integrating or disintegrating**, we requested the Secretariat to provide analytical work and policy recommendations, to be presented and discussed at the next TDB, on best practices on the facilitation of the integration among regions; including challenges posed by multiple overlapping free trade agreements, and

coherence between regional and multilateral integration initiatives. Belarus made an interesting proposal that actually goes in this direction;

- (b) **Item 3 - Interdependence: Inclusive growth - towards a global agenda**, we expressed our concerns on the potential implications that current downside risks to the global economy pose to inclusive growth;
- (c) **Item 4 - Development strategies in a globalized world**, we concurred with the Trade and Development Report that the pace of global growth is still weaker than desirable, thus reinforcing the importance of deploying all policy tools to achieve inclusive growth and stability;
- (d) **Item 5 and 6 - Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and item 6 - Economic development in Africa: Tourism for transformative and inclusive growth**, we are glad to see a negotiated outcome. However, we express our concerns that it appeared for a moment that there was an expectation not to have agreed conclusions even on these items;
- (e) **Item 7 - Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective**, we requested further work on the factors influencing the weak performance of international trade, including, in particular, on the possible implications for developing countries and the impact of non-tariff measures on trade and development;
- (f) **Item 8 - Investment for development: Investment and the digital economy**, we recognized the work on the links between investments and the digital economy; and welcomed and strongly encouraged the second phase of the road map for the reform of the international investment agreements.
- (g) **Item 9 - Establishing development linkages in the extractive sector: Lessons from the field**, we requested 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 especially in capacity building of the national stakeholders;
- (h) **Item 10 - Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries**, we requested UNCTAD to continue its support and advocacy in favor of SIDS and urged UNCTAD to use the list of SIDS from the United Nations High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and therefore to expand its “analytical list of SIDS” ;
- (i) **Item 11 - UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**, we requested that further reports under this agenda item list achievements related to specific goals and objectives of major UN Conferences, especially those listed in paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano; and
- (j) **Item 12(b) - Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people**, we took note that paragraph 55(dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano is yet to be implemented, and requested UNCTAD to implement all relevant UN resolution and specifically paragraph 55(dd) of the Nairobi Maafikiano by strengthening its assistance to the Palestinian people programme with adequate resources, and requested all Member States to assist UNCTAD to fulfil its mandate in this regards.

**Mr. President,**

19. I want to conclude by thanking you once again for your able leadership during the past weeks.

**I thank you.**