



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A**

**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 OPENING PLENARY OF SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION GENEVA,
11–22 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**H.E. Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova
and President of the 64th Session,**

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,

Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates.

1. **Mr. President,** I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Group congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Trade and Development Board for the period 2017 – 18. We are sure that we will achieve concrete and fruitful results, for which you have the full support of our Group. Allow me also to express our appreciation and admiration to His

Excellency Ambassador Christopher Onyanga Aparr of Uganda for his courage and dedication during Phase I of implementation of Nairobi Maafikiano.

Mr. President,

2. The G77 and China also expresses its thanks to Secretary-General Kituyi for his introductory statement and we would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for organizing this meeting and for its continuing support to member states. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you on behalf of the Group for your reappointment as the Secretary General of UNCTAD.

Mr. President,

3. The Group also wishes to congratulate all incoming Chairs and officers for their elections to various UNCTAD Bodies for the 2017-2018.

Mr. President,

4. It has been over a year since we adopted the Nairobi Maafikiano. In that time, we have made some progress in revitalisation of the Intergovernmental Machinery, particularly on the establishment of the two Intergovernmental working groups for Financing for Development and E-Commerce and digital economy. While we may have not progressed as quickly as we had expected, we have been able to nurture and strengthen the spirit of Nairobi and we are more confident than ever

that all of UNCTAD's membership looks forward to an institution that will play its expected role at the centre of the development community thus helping to realize prosperity for all. We therefore also look to the secretariat for a clear view on how it will play its role in fostering the UNCTAD that we aspire to. An important first step is to fully appreciate how the UNCTAD secretariat is implementing the vigorous mandate it has been given in Nairobi. This is crucial: we must always remember that UNCTAD is the focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in finance, investment, technology and sustainable development. Such a broad mandate creates great expectations and aspirations, especially for us developing countries.

Mr. President,

Finally, we reiterate the significance of this session of the Trade and Development Board and reiterate the assurance of our continued engagement and support and wish you productive and fruitful deliberations.

I thank you Mr. President.