

**Trade and Development Board**  
**Sixty Fifth Executive Session**  
**17 July 2017**  
**State by Bangladesh on behalf on LDCs**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am speaking on behalf of LDCs. We align our statement with that delivered by Tanzania on behalf G 77 and China.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished delegates,

Let me first congratulate the Secretary General for his second term. We also thank him for producing the report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat in support of Africa. LDC group gives utmost importance to this report as majority of least developed countries belong to Africa. Experiences and impact of support and assistance provided by the secretariat to Africa are important to all LDCs since LDCs in other regions have been suffering from similar difficulties. We believe, such experiences will help other LDCs to replicate similar initiatives once activities are successfully implemented in Africa with positive results.

**Mr. President,**

While going through the report, we have found that UNCTAD secretariat have undertaken many activities in Africa. However, what we do not see in the report are the results and impact of these activities. We do understand that it might not be always possible to measure the impact of some technical cooperation activities. However, there are areas where impact could be ascertained. For example, as indicated in Para 17, UNCTAD commissioned a study titled "Trade misinvoicing in primary commodities in developing countries". The report showed the potential incidence and magnitude of trade misinvoicing in primary commodity exports from developing countries particularly in Africa, underscoring the significant problem that capital flight and illicit financial flows pose to developing countries. Were any activities undertaken to address this finding? If so, the report could indicate that as its impact making it more useful. We think it is necessary to bring to the attention of the TDB all findings of reports and outcome of any technical cooperation activities in order to enable TDB to undertake future course of actions.

Lastly, Mr. President, if I may, I wish to draw your attention to some inconsistencies in the report. In paras, 15, 54, 63, 82, 84 and 86, there are references to some activities, which we suppose have already been undertaken by the Secretariat in April, May and June 2017. But, these activities may have already been presented to CSTD but the language in the report does not seem to reflect that. We understand, this report was prepared in April 2017 and the executive session is taking place in July. So, it seems, a certain linguistic updating of the report is in order in that context.

I thank you.