

**GRULAC UNCTAD**  
**G E N E V A**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Evandro Didonet**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil**  
**on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean at the**  
**Sixty-fifth Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board**

*Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for*  
*Transformative and Inclusive Growth*

*Geneva, 17 July 2017*

Mr. President, Mr. Taavo Lumiste (Estonia),  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi,  
Director of the Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, Mr. Paul Akiwumi,  
Ambassadors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Let me first congratulate, on behalf of GRULAC Countries, Secretary-General Kituyi for his reappointment by the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Secretary-General, you can count with our continued collaboration.
2. Mr. President, GRULAC commends the work of UNCTAD in support of Africa and of its special concerns and needs in areas such as structural transformation and tackling vulnerabilities as highlighted in the report prepared for this session of the TDB. Let me also note the recently published *Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for Transformative and Inclusive Growth*
3. GRULAC notes the increase in international tourism in Africa highlighted in the Report as a positive development and as an important source of external revenues and jobs, including outside the major urban centres of the continent.
4. GRULAC concurs with the linkages stressed in the Report between tourism, inclusive growth and structural transformation, as tourism can develop local supply of more sophisticated services and stimulate growth in some manufacture sectors. It should also be highlighted that investing in infrastructure and increasing the connectivity between Africa and other continents will act as enablers of the tourism and other sectors, especially through lower transportations and information costs.
5. In conclusion, GRULAC commends the activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa and stands ready to support the work of organization in this regard.
6. Mr. President, the GRULAC countries which belong to the G77 and China associate themselves with the statement made by Tanzania on behalf of the Group.

Thank you.