



DRAFT STATEMENT

**65nd SESSION OF THE UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)
STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA DELIVERED BY DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, MS NCUMISA NOTUTELA**

17 JULY 2017

**Mr President,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi,
Excellences,
Distinguished colleagues and participants**

Mr President

South Africa aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the G77 and China and the Africa Group.

South Africa express its appreciation to Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his introductory statement, which has set the tone for our discussions during this session of the TDB. I wish to congratulate the SG for his re-election to be once again at helm of the

Organisation. I thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the UNCTAD's Activities in Support of Africa Report, which is the subject of this TDB.

Mr President

It is South Africa's view that UNCTAD is the premier global forum that highlights the challenges that developing countries are encountering in pursuing their development agenda despite diminishing policy space. We commend the efforts UNCTAD in providing technical assistance and trade capacity-building support in several areas as articulated in the report, presented to us this morning.

Mr President,

We gather here in the midst of a new era in international development policy as we embark on the implementation of the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). As the global community proceeds with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is important to be cognizant of the need to continue highlighting the rising rates of inequality between and within countries and escalating poverty levels, especially in developing countries, Africa in particular. The role of trade, in our view, is critical in addressing unemployment, inequality and poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups including youth and women. However, the share of Africa's trade remains miniscule at less than 5%. This being the case, UNCTAD should forge a Performance Management and Impact Analysis Framework that is clearly geared towards correcting this problem.

To this end, UNCTAD should strengthen its Technical Assistance to Africa, especially through linkages to Africa's regional socio-economic programmes, including NEPAD and Agenda 2063, which prioritise industrialisation in recognition of its role in advancing effective economic

transformation, growth, development and improved productivity. There is also a need to enhance UNCTAD's capacity building programmes for Least Developed Countries, including its work on supporting the LDCs' developmental efforts through addressing the root causes of under-development. As we all know, the bulk of LDCs are African, and South Africa is committed to lending its support to efforts towards the graduation of these countries from this category.

Mr President

Developing countries, particularly African countries and Least Developed Countries, rely on traditional sources of financing to bolster their efforts towards development, and ODA remains the primary resource in the new development era. We appreciate that financial resources committed to Africa increased by 4% in 2016 compared to 2015. We commend Development Partners for their commitments in this regard and hope that this will enhance the implementation of Africa's development priorities.

Mr President

Tangible UNCTAD Work on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Africa can assist the continent recover billions of dollars lost to the continent through illegal means, and assist many of the countries to graduate from LDC status. We note the SG's remarks on UNCTAD's work on this issue and encourage the organisation to strengthen its further engagement in the area of research, consensus building and technical assistance on IFFs in Africa.

I thank you.