

**30<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Trade and Development Board**  
**Statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group**  
**by Ambassador Tehmina Janjua,**  
**Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN**  
**13 June 2016**

Mr. President,

The Asia-Pacific Group would like to fully align itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Wayne McCook of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would also like to appreciate your leadership in guiding us through the Preparatory Process of UNCTAD 14.

Mr. President,

UNCTAD is the focal point in the UN system for trade, development and interrelated issues of finance, technology, and investment. Its platform and services remain critical for developing countries. UNCTAD 14 offers us an opportunity to reiterate and strengthen its mandate. The landmark outcome documents agreed last year by the international community have lent a sense of urgency to revitalize UNCTAD in all its three pillars to better serve the global development agenda.

Mr. President,

The draft outcome document of UNCTAD 14 has been under negotiation for the past several months now. Members of the Asia-Pacific Group, as part of the Group of 77 and China, are actively participating in these deliberations. The work done by the regional coordinators and focal persons, facilitated by you and the “Friends of Chair”, is indeed appreciable. However, the Group is concerned at the slow pace of negotiations. We believe that every effort should now be made to clear the text and secure agreement on all outstanding issues.

We especially note with concern that numerous elements important to developing countries are being ignored by other Groups. The success of the Conference hinges on its ability to deliver on issues of concern to developing countries. Simply discarding issues of concern to developing countries is not acceptable.

The notion of ‘comparative advantage’ should not be allowed to limit the role of UNCTAD, to a few areas, and to restrict its broad mandate covering trade, development and all interrelated issues. This mandate has been reaffirmed in

recent UN outcomes, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which also called for the strengthening of the Organization. UNCTAD - both as an organization and intergovernmental machinery, should be enabled to treat all interrelated trade, investment and development issues in a comprehensive manner.

We believe that emphasis should be given to the most important pillar of UNCTAD's work, which is consensus-building. Regrettably, efforts are being made to downgrade consensus-building pillar of UNCTAD. This would be a great disservice not only to developing countries but to developed countries as well. The global economy remains fragile. Persistently high levels of unemployment, stagnant economic growth and unprecedented income inequalities are leading to an unraveling of consensus within and amongst countries, on international economic and trade regimes. In such a situation, it is incomprehensible as to why this Organization's mandate to discuss trade and economic matters in an integrated manner, is sought to be eroded.

Developing countries attach great importance to issues such as technology transfer, debt management, tax evasion and tax avoidance and implementation of SDGs. Being the focal point for trade, development and interrelated issues it is only natural for UNCTAD to treat these matters in all its three pillars.

We further note with concern that settled principles of trade and development are being questioned. Developing countries attach great importance to principles such as the right to development, special and differential treatment, and policy space. These principles must be clearly reflected in the final document.

Issues relating to the State of Palestine, unilateral coercive measures, as well as challenges confronted by countries in special conditions including hosting of large number of refugees in protracted situations are important to Members of the Group. These must be treated appropriately in the text.

Mr. President,

The Asia-Pacific Group remains committed to playing a constructive role in the deliberations so as to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.