

**Statement delivered by Barbados on behalf of the Group of Small Island  
Developing States (SIDS) in UNCTAD at the Thirtieth Special Session of the  
UNCTAD Trade and Development Board**

**13 June, 2016**

Mister President, Her Excellency, Mr Alfredo Suescum,

Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi,

Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade of Kenya, Her Excellency, Ms Monica Juma,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in UNCTAD.

2. At the outset, Mister President, we wish to commend you and the “Friends of the Chair”, on the work that you have been doing to progress the text on the draft outcome document. We also extend our gratitude to the UNCTAD Secretariat for their usual excellent preparation of the documentation and logistics for this meeting and all of the working sessions that we have had.

3. The SIDS Group fully associates itself with the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mister President.

4. We take note of your assessment on the state of the negotiations and your detailed outlook on the way forward.

5. As we reflect on the progress to date, at this our final Preparatory Committee meeting before we head to Nairobi, we recognise that a number of those paragraphs which remain outstanding are of critical importance to our Group. In

fact there is still much work left to do. We nevertheless find solace in your assessment that we are close to reaching convergence on many of these issues.

6. In order to realise this however, we need to urgently intensify our collective efforts during the interim period between now and Nairobi. This intensification of work must be coupled with the requisite exercise of good faith in the negotiations, and political will to work towards an UNCTAD which will be empowered to deliver on its mandate as **the focal point in the United Nations system on trade and development and the interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development**. This mandate is one in which we all agreed should continue, and for SIDS, UNCTAD's role within the international arena is one in which is fundamental to assisting our countries to either overcome, or grapple with the inherent vulnerabilities which we face on a daily basis.

7. For the Group therefore, it is vital that the outcome document reflect the principles which are sacrosanct to the development and sustainable development discourse and which have been reiterated within their respective contexts in the international outcomes to which we have all agreed, and which have made the year 2015 a truly historic year for the global development agenda.

8. With regard to the our trade and development needs, it is critical that reflected in the final outcome of UNCTAD XIV, is the expression of the organisation's contribution to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathways, as well as the strengthening of its work for small island developing states, including on the issues of debt; oceans economy; investment; tax evasion and tax avoidance; transport and logistics including sustainable transport; technology transfer and information and communication technologies (ICT); and in addressing our physical and economic vulnerabilities, promoting structural economic transformation, and building resilience and productive capacities.

9. The recognition of the need for the development of transparent measures of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income is essential, and UNCTAD's role in the development of productive capacity indices and its continued work on vulnerability indices is necessary.

Mister Chairman.

10. Amidst the divergences between Members, we think that there are some basic parameters to which we can all agree. Chief among these is that **our role** is to draft for our Ministers, a document which is not only worthy of Ministerial decree, but one which will define UNCTAD's mandate for the next quadrennium and which is aimed at meaningfully addressing the needs of this organisation's main beneficiaries - developing countries.

11. We consider that the implementation of the various outcomes adopted by the international community in 2015 will form part of the basis of our work, however a mere restatement of the language in these outcomes is not always sufficient. UNCTAD's mandate must be devised based on the merit of each issue as it relates to trade and development, and the interrelated issues of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

12. Mister President, the Group of Small Island Developing States in UNCTAD remain hopeful that we can make significant progress on the text in the coming days. In this regard, we assure you of our continued engagement in our work towards UNCTAD XIV; our readiness to work within the context of accelerated intensified negotiations; and our commitment to work with you as we strive to strengthen the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Mister President, I thank you.