

**Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Rajab M. Sukayri,  
Permanent Representative of Jordan,  
on behalf of the Asian Group**

**at the 67th Session of the Working Party on the  
Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget  
Geneva, 12 March 2014**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Deputy Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Asian Group. The Group congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your election. We assure you of our full support and cooperation in the tasks ahead of us.

We also align ourselves with the statement made by the Ambassador of Chad on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Mr. Chair, we wish to provide comments on two important agenda items due for consideration at this Working Party.

**Firstly, on Agenda Item 3:**

The UNCTAD communications strategy and publications policy, adopted by the Board in 2009, has been a very important step to enhance the visibility of UNCTAD and ensure effective dissemination of publications. We are happy to see the results of the readership survey of the main publications of UNCTAD in 2013. Our appreciation to UNCTAD for designing an in-depth yet user-friendly questionnaire for the survey. We would have liked to see a higher response rate from Government respondents since Governments are the primary target group as well as beneficiaries in many cases of the UNCTAD publications. This might have reflected a higher rating on overall assessment as well. The Secretariat could explore added measures to sensitize delegates in Geneva as well as in capitals to engage more actively in this survey. We encourage UNCTAD to continue its useful work on the publications which will ultimately contribute to

implementation of the UNCTAD mandate as endorsed in Accra and Doha. An effective communication and publication strategy is also fundamental to support the research and analysis pillar of UNCTAD. We also look forward to the UNCTAD 50 publication. That document can help focus a deep reflection on the future of UNCTAD and the development discourse including the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

**Secondly, on Agenda item 4:**

The need for UNCTAD to develop a coherent, systematic and efficient fundraising strategy has been identified by the membership as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen UNCTAD's management and administration. To that end, the Secretariat has prepared the draft strategy paper which has been available for consideration of the member states since last year. The Asian Group has studied the recommendations in the paper and believes they are well focused towards achieving the objectives of the strategy. Recommendations such as minimum earmarking of funds, ensuring demand-driven activities, multi-year funding, encouraging an RBM framework in project proposals etc. are all important for enhancing the efficiency of UNCTAD's management and administration.

The 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party in September 2013 recognised the importance of the UNCTAD Fundraising Strategy for technical cooperation. We urge the membership to engage in meaningful discussions while considering this important document at this session of the Working Party so that it may be presented for approval at the Trade and Development Board as early as possible. An early approval of the document by the membership can help to ensure that the fundraising efforts lead to the necessary levels of resources to meet the increasing demand for technical cooperation. We also wish to underscore the need for predictable and sustainable extra-budgetary funds to sustain the technical cooperation pillar of UNCTAD, an indispensable pillar for developing countries, particularly the LDCs.

I thank you Mr. Chair and we wish you success in leading this session and look forward to constructive discussions in the coming three days.