

**STATEMENT BY BRAZIL ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN
AND THE CARIBBEAN STATES (GRULAC) AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*Item 7 – Evolution of the international trading system and its trends
from a development perspective*

Monday, 11 September 2017 (afternoon session)

Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Tudor ULIANOVSKI (Moldova),
Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Officer-in-Charge, Division on International Trade in Goods and
Services, and Commodities
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries. Since this is the first time the Group takes the floor, we want to congratulate you on your election. We thank the Secretariat for organizing this session and for preparing the report on the current trends of international trade from a development perspective. The report adds value to the global debate on the international trading system and on its current – and pressing – challenges.

2. The report of this session factually describes the dire situation of world trade in recent years. It calls the attention to the drop in the value of world trade in 2015. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, exports decreased by 14.6% in that year, as a consequence, among others, of the sharp decline in commodity prices.

3. This “unusual and persistent weakness of international trade” is particularly worrisome given the fact that a more favorable external environment was a major driver of growth in developing countries in the pre-crisis period. The comparison contained in the report between the contraction of world trade in 2009 and 2015 – in particular the fact that it occurred in a period of mild but positive economic growth – is particularly illustrative about the complex factors that might be hindering trade.

4. In this context, the Group highlights that it appreciates the important links that the report makes between trade and sustainable development and the policy recommendations in this regard. The report also raises important issues about the policy and non-policy factors influencing international trade performance. However, these could have also been addressed in the conclusions and policy recommendations of the report, including, in particular, on the possible implications of restructuring in global value chains for developing countries and the impact of non-tariff measures on trade and development.

5. Given UNCTAD’s expertise in this matter, we expect that the organization continues to contribute to the global debate on trade with its analysis and recommendations on the international trading system from a development perspective.

6. Before I conclude, I would like to remark that the members of GRULAC who are part of the Group of 77 and China associate ourselves with the statement made by the G77 and China.

Thank you.