

**All-groups' statement for the Opening Plenary of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the TDB, September 11, 2017**

*Honoured Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mukhisa Kituyi,  
Honoured Ministers and Ambassadors,  
Dear colleagues and friends and partners of trade and development  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to speak on behalf regional groups of Group D, the EU and JUSSCANZ of UNCTAD.

First, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his remarks. We also would like to congratulate you, SG, for your reappointment for the position of the SG of UNCTAD for another 4 years.

We also whole-heartedly congratulate the newly nominated President of the TDB. Ambassador, dear Tudor, we are fully confident in your skills and capacities to steer our work during the next year. It will be a joint endeavour, and please rest assured – you have our full trust and commitment to deliver on the Nairobi Maafikiano: *From Decision to Action: moving towards an inclusive and equitable environment for trade and development.*

Please allow me also to congratulate all the nominated Vice-Presidents and members of the Working Party and Advisory Board.

*Distinguished colleagues,*

It is important for us to note that we are starting year two of the implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano. UNCTAD's important role should be strengthened as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development as dispensed through its three pillars of consensus building, research and analysis, and technical assistance with the overall objective of achieving prosperity for all.

As UNCTAD's highest instance, the Trade and Development Board should be an opportunity to highlight how the Maafikiano is being implemented, and we are looking forward to this meeting in order to hear and to discuss this in its fullest depth.

However, as we are entering this critical phase, we would like to raise a few concerns.

We are yet to see a clear/comprehensive/integrated action plan on how UNCTAD Secretariat intends to implement the Maafikiano mandate in full. This first step would be instrumental for the Secretariat to prepare its report on such implementation.

We expect the Secretary General to lead these efforts, and engage respectively with Member States, and bring more executive direction into the process. This will in effect also increase UNCTAD's relevance.

In this respect we call for enhanced accountability and transparency.

On behalf of all Regional Groups, we are open to work closely with the Secretariat, and we stand ready to engage frequently with Senior Management of UNCTAD, so the remaining period can be effective.

*Thank you for your attention.*