

Item 7
JUSCANZ Statement Regarding Financing for Development IGE
For the 66th Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board
February 6, 2018

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Building on the JUSCANZ intervention delivered on Item 6, I would like to share the following reflections and suggestions regarding the Financing for Development IGE.

Some many of you will remember, the JUSCANZ countries expressed concern about the Financing for Development IGE's agenda and program on Nov. 8, 2017. We pointed out that the Terms of Reference for the IGE were carefully negotiated over many months and agreed by all Member States at the April 5, 2017 Trade and Development Board. It was our hope and expectation that the secretariat would organize the IGE consistent with the terms of reference that we established.

Unfortunately, what we observed was that the Secretariat delivered a meeting that was not aligned with the terms of reference as established by the TDB. Colleagues, this is where all of us have a responsibility and a duty as member states to enforce Accra Para 192, which I referred to earlier, and take action in situations when the Secretariat does not discharge its mandate in accordance with the intergovernmental decisions of UNCTAD.

We would like to share two key inconsistencies we identified in FfD IGE meeting:

- First, Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the TORs clearly say that the IGE and its topics should conform to UNCTAD's mandated work areas. Despite this requirement, sessions were organized on illicit financial flows and taxation issues – two areas that UNCTAD has no agreed mandate to work on.
- Second, we would like to remind our fellow member states that all of us have a responsibility to uphold the terms of reference for meetings. Several regional groups preempted the experts' discussion with their own statements of expected policy recommendations. Those statements broke the verbal agreement made between the major regional groups to let the experts drive the policy recommendations. That unorthodox approach was noted by one of the FfD experts who said "this is the first time I ever saw the conclusions made before the discussion began."

With that feedback in mind, we propose a TDB decision that requests the Secretariat to revisit its approach to the Financing for Development IGE in order to make future sessions fully align with the Terms of Reference. We further request that the Secretariat report on the changes it made in the 2018 IGEs, at the mid-term review, so that member states can assess progress.

Second, we propose the TDB to take note of the report and note with concern that the recommendation element is weak and use of them in New York or other FfD forums may have an adverse effect on the credibility of the experts or the capacity of UNCTAD to play a genuine constructive role in the intergovernmental dialogue on FfD as a whole.

Thank you for your kind attention.