Statement by the Pakistan on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group
at the Trade and Development Board, sixty-seventh Session
Statement on Item 13 - UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to
the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits
in the economic and social fields
Geneva, 3 July 2020

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Federico Villegas (Argentina),
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mukhisa Kituyi,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Isabelle Durant,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group. As this is the first
time, I am taking floor in capacity as Coordinator of Asia Pacific Group, I would like to convey
thanks to the members of group for reposing trust in the delegation of Pakistan.

2. The group associate itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Martha Mwitumwa of
Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.

Mr President,

3. At the outset, the Asia Pacific Group would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to the
Deputy Secretary-General for her comprehensive statement about the contributions that UNCTAD
made to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations
conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The statement highlighted the active
participation of UNCTAD in various areas within its mandate to promote trade and development,
which is indicative of the importance of this institution for the developing countries and the whole
world as the focal point of trade and development in the UN System.

4. The Asia Pacific Group commends UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of major UN
outcomes, related to the Sustainable Development Goals and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, across
its five subprogrammes of work and three pillars. We specifically mention the work of UNCTAD
on Debt, Financing for development, development of statistical and analytical policy tools, such
as its Financial Condition Indicators for developing countries Investment and enterprise
development, the nexus between trade; development and migration, oceans, biodiversity, commodity dependence, multilateral trading system, creative economy, and digitalization.

Mr. President,

5. Climate change has raised a great deal of concern worldwide causing devastating impact on nature and livelihoods of hundreds of millions especially in the developing countries. In our region, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, many countries are facing existential threat as the level of seas and oceans are constantly rising leading to submergence of densely inhabited coastlines. Other countries are facing extreme weather conditions and natural disasters like tyfoons, floods, earthquakes and desertification caused by global warming. We note with appreciation UNCTAD’s efforts in assisting member States in developing natural resource management systems that are appropriate in the context of climate change.

6. We also commend devoting the 2019 edition of the Commodities and Development Report entitled “Commodity Dependence, Climate Change and the Paris Agreement”, to the analysis of the interaction between natural resource dependence, climate change, and development.

7. The Asia Pacific Group notes with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat in executing UNCTAD mandate regarding Samoa Pathway, Istanbul Programme of Action, and Vienna Programme of Action. We call upon UNCTAD to step up their efforts in those areas assisting Small Islands Developing States, Least Developed countries, and Land Locked Developing Countries and attending to their special needs.

Mr. President

8. The analysis of facts and trends in all related areas is of great value for planning development and achieve the SDGs. What matters even more is how to direct conclusions derived from this analysis into workable policy recommendations, and how to mobilize the international community towards achieving a global social and economic environment conducive to development and creation of conditions for equitable opportunities for all to reach growth and prosperity. We encourage UNCTAD to play its role in that context through synergies of its 3 pillars as it is very well positioned to mobilize the world and create a decisive impact.

Mr. President,

9. As UNCTAD is preparing for its 15th conference, due to take place next year, we believe there are many lessons we can learn from the successes and challenges that UNCTAD has gone through for the last four years since Nairobi. It is crucial to look back at those in order to plan the way forward. This matter has become a pressing urgency considering recent developments on many fronts, the trade tensions, the rapid progress in digitalization and new technologies, climate change, and last but not least, the profound implications of COVID-19 on trade and development amongst
others. While those developments pose immense challenges to developing countries, at the same time they also provide opportunities to change the track that should be seized. Since its establishment in 1964, UNCTAD has strived to create a fair and equitable world through trade and development; there is no doubt that this goal has not been achieved yet and some might say we are further away from reaching it. We hope that the next UNCTAD conference be a forum at which we all try to redraft the trajectory of trade and development, on the light of current global conditions, to reach the purpose that UNCTAD was created for.

I thank you Mr. President