Statement by  
His Excellency Ambassador Khalil Hashmi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan  
On behalf of ASIA PACIFIC GROUP  
at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Trade and Development Board

Agenda Item 17 (a): Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2019–2020 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Federico Villegas,  
Ambassador Michael Gaffey, Permanent Representative of Ireland,  
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Isabelle Durant,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. The Asia Pacific Group commends the work of Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action and thanks the chair, Ambassador Michael Gaffey for presenting insightful report on the work of Advisory body for the year 2019-20.

2. The Asia Pacific Group is pleased to note that between 2001 and 2019, UNCTAD has successfully delivered 43 regional and 2 general courses. Focused on capacity building, these courses addressed the analytical and policy challenges that policy makers, civil servants and other stakeholders from developing and transition economies face in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

3. The Asia Pacific Group thanks the Governments of Egypt, Kenya, Serbia, Colombia and Singapore for organizing these courses in partnership with UNCTAD. Their substantial support to the UNCTAD’s flagship programme is commendable.

4. The Group is pleased to note that UNCTAD P166 courses were well-structured and the modules were presented by professionals, who have studied and worked on issues and challenges of countries across the globe. The modules presented on issues relating to macro-economic issues, trade policy and trade facilitation were found particularly useful.

5. These regional courses also signified UNCTAD’s delivery capacity of analytical work on the integrated nature of trade, finance, investment, technology, logistics and macroeconomic policies in the context of major economic trends and debates in multilateral fora.
6. Acknowledging the benefit of course for its participants, its focus on national economic policy coordination and its link to development, the Asia Pacific Group reaffirms its support to the UNCTAD P-166 programme.

7. The Group would like to recall the efforts made by UNCTAD in working towards the establishment of an interregional platform for the alumni of previous regional courses, representing the five developing regions. It was proposed that the alumni members would be invited to share cross-regional experiences. The pilot of this interregional platform was scheduled to be rolled out in June 2019. The Group would like to benefit from UNCTAD Secretariat’s insight and progress made so far.

8. The Group also suggests incorporating emerging issues of electronic commerce (e-commerce), digital economy, taxation of digital companies, reform of International Investment Agreements and Investor-State Dispute Settlement subject in the courses to be held in the future.

9. The Asia Pacific Group appreciates the engagement and contributions of UNCTAD experts, national experts, regional commissions, and the Policy Capacity-building Section of the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics. The Group calls upon all members to provide the necessary support to the Secretariat as it continues to develop and support on this important capacity-building programme.

10. I thank you, Mr. President.