Draft Statement to be delivered by Barbados on behalf of the Group of SIDS in UN CTAD during the Second Segment of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Trade and Development Board

7 September 2020

Agenda 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

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Small Island Developing States in UNCTAD.

Mister President.

UNCTAD has a core role to play in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing states. We therefore thank UNCTAD for the work that they have done as its contribution towards the implementation of this important Conference outcome. We recall that in 2017, the sixty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board took up the issue of, “Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States”. In light of the work that UNCTAD has undertaken on SIDS since its last report in 2017 and more critically the impact that COVID-19 is having and will continue to have on our sustainable development and our ability to reach critical milestone in the implementation of the SDGs, we would suggest that UNCTAD update Members on its activities in support of small island developing States at our next session.

We believe that UNCTAD XV will be a defining moment for the future of the organisation, particularly in light of the gravity of the challenges facing multilateralism, the global economic economy and our individual countries, as we continue be confronted by some of the gravest challenges of our generation, including the health and economic crisis that has emerged from COVID-19 and climate change. We must therefore work towards a transformational conference, not only in name but in substance.

In closing Mister President, the SIDS Group reiterates our readiness to work with the Secretariat in defining its interventions based on the interests of the Group, and our continued engagement UNCTAD’s role in the implementation of the Samoa Pathways and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you Mister President.