

Statement of H.E. Ambassador M Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in the inaugural session of the 62nd Executive session TDB of the UNCTAD, 25 January 2016 (10:00-13:00 hrs), Geneva.

Mr. President of the TDB, Secretary-General of UNCTAD Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Excellencies, Distinguished delegate,

Let me commence by expressing Bangladesh's strong support to the TDB President's effort to ensure successful holding of UNCTAD XIV in July. We remain committed to actively participate and cooperate in the preparatory work of the Nairobi Ministerial Conference as well as in other areas of work of the UNCTAD. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Jamaica on behalf of the G77 and China, by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group (and by Benin on behalf of the LDC Group).

Mr. President,

We are now eagerly waiting for the zero-draft of the outcome document of the UNCTAD XIV, which is being prepared under your able stewardship. This year's Ministerial Conference would be the first UNCTAD Ministerial after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other crucial development related meetings last year, and thus would be a crucial one in the history of the UNCTAD in terms of shaping up the future of this Organization. This is particularly true due to the fact that the expectation of the developing world, including the LDCs, is paramount to say the least. UNCTAD needs to effectively act as a platform for developing countries to negotiate global economic order, and its future course of action should be transformative in nature and should commensurate with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We also need to build upon other milestone outcomes of last year like the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), COP 21 outcome and the WTO MC-10 outcome. We also need to ensure that we do not fall back from what have already agreed upon in Doha and Accra. With this spirit and expectation, my delegation is eagerly waiting for the zero-draft of the outcome document of the UNCTAD XIV, and looks forward to have active participation in the negotiations on the text.

Mr. President,

Aligning ourselves with the position of the G77 and China, Bangladesh would like to emphasize that the issues of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and Right to Development are crucial for us, especially as a LDC. These concepts are already there in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and we must not omit them in the outcome of Nairobi Ministerial of UNCTAD. We also need to be mindful of our aspirations concerning creating an enabling environment at the international level as well as respecting policy space.

Mr. President,

We welcome the presentation of the LDC Report 2015. This report rightly highlights the critical importance of the structural transformation of rural economies in LDCs to the fulfilment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Bangladesh, with majority of its population living in rural areas, fully concurs with the Report's conclusion that such transformation should encompass agricultural upgrading and diversification towards rural non-farm activities to maximize the synergies between the two. For us, ensuring transformation of our rural economy through further investment in infrastructure to generate enhanced rural demand and strengthened supply response is important, like in other LDCs. The Report would be thus useful for us in terms of the policies outlined for rural structural transformation in the areas of finance, agricultural technology, enterprise and innovation, human resources and institutions. The Report rightly points out the need for the international community to show the necessary political resolve in providing the necessary means including providing the LDCs with a level of official development assistance commensurate with the major challenges they face.

Mr. President,

We also welcome the Trade and Development Report (TDR) 2015. Aligning ourselves with the G77 and China Statement, we would like to add that this is important that the developed countries show the political commitment to ensure that the ODA support in reality commemorates with commitment and requirement. This is an issue we are emphasizing upon for long time, and time has come to realize it. Also the Report rightly points out that serious policy

discussion is required on critical issues to be addressed in order to establish a more stable and inclusive international monetary and financial system that can support the development challenges over the coming years. In this connection, the Report effectively points out the shortcomings in the functioning of the international monetary and financial system. We also believe that long-term financing for development is crucial and appreciate the Report's findings and recommendations on this, especially regarding the PPPs. We also like to emphasize that UN General Assembly Resolution A/69/L.84 defining principles for sustainable sovereign debt workout approaches, needs to be implemented, and the TDR's observations in this regard is important and appropriate.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Bangladesh remains hopeful that, under your able Presidency, we would be able to move forward collectively for achieving tangible results from UNCTAD for our mutual benefits. I would like to restate Bangladesh's full support to you and your bureau. We look forward to see that the outcome of the UNCTAD-XIV brings new optimism in addressing global development efforts through enhancing trade, investment and finance as well as through meaningful transformation of global economic system, and emphasize that your diligent efforts to reach consensus among the Membership would be crucial in this regard. We continue to see that the UNCTAD plays a key role in defining the global trade and development agenda to ensure that the developing countries' aspiration of having a level-playing field comes into reality. I thank you Mr. President.