

JZ Intervention
Financing for Development IGE
November 8, 2017

Mr. Chair, Madame Deputy Secretary General,

The JUSCANZ countries look forward to the next three days and hope that experts in the room will have fruitful and productive exchanges. In principle, expert meetings such as this one should require little involvement from Geneva-based regional groups and, I therefore regret, having to delay the start of this meeting. However, the JUSCANZ countries wish to express our concern with the IGE's agenda and program.

As you know, the Terms of Reference for this IGE were carefully negotiated over many months and agreed by all Member States, at the April 5 Trade and Development Board.

It was our hope, and I think the expectation of all member states, that the secretariat would organize this IGE consistent with the terms of reference that we established. Indeed, paragraph three of the provisional agenda, states that the IGE will "be held in accordance with the TORs." A quick review of the full program reveals that this meeting's topics are not consistent with the TORs. It is not our intention to politicize this meeting, but as member states, the JZ countries, and indeed all member states, have a duty to make sure the secretariat faithfully follows member states' guidance.

With this in mind, and without impeding the experts' ability to discuss issues they deem important, we expect that the draft policy recommendations that this body creates will reflect experts' suggestions in line with UNCTAD's mandate - as the Terms of Reference for this body require.

In this regard, the JUSCANZ countries reserve judgment on, and potential endorsement of, the policy recommendations developed over the next three days until they are brought before the Trade and Development Board or other governing bodies.

I thank you for your attention.