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## PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO UNOG

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### **African Group Statement at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, Geneva, 28 November, 2016**

Your Excellency Ambassador Tehmina JANJUA, Chair of the Session,  
Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

#### **Chair,**

On behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of bureau on your election to steer the work of this Session of the Working Party. We are confident that under your able leadership, the Session will be a success. We assure you of our full support. Let me also express our group's appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for the documents before us and also thank Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for his opening remarks.

#### **Chair,**

The African Group fully aligns itself with the statement by the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the G.77 & China. Allow me however to make a few general remarks on behalf of our Group, on the draft documents under consideration at the Session.

With regards to the **overall orientation** section of the **draft proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019**, the Africa Group is concerned about the way the Result Based Management (RBM) is being treated, gives the impression that it applies to all three pillars of UNCTAD. We would, therefore, like to emphasize that RBM can only be applied to the technical cooperation pillar. We are also concerned that the mention of support to Africa in the draft document is inconsistent with the Nairobi Maafikiano, as there is no mention made, in the document, in relation to NEPAD and Agenda 2063.

#### **Chair,**

As the UN focal point for the trade and development and related issues in the areas of investment, finance and technology, UNCTAD has a broad mandate that should not be limited to its **areas of expertise**, as suggested in the document. Therefore, as we emphasized during the negotiations of UNCTAD XIV, UNCTAD should continue to address challenges created by globalization and identify

benefits on opportunities so as to contribute effectively in achievement of all sustainable development goals.

**Chair,**

The African Group notes with concern that there is an unbalance treatment of the two proposed Intergovernmental Expert Groups on **financing for development and e-commerce** in the proposed biennial programme. While the Inter-governmental Expert Group on E-commerce has specific servicing in the programme, the Financing for Development one does not have specific servicing, this should be rectified. We would to recall that the decision to have both Expert Groups was a win-win delicate outcome of negotiations therefore, if FfD will not receive equal treatment, we will have difficulties moving on the e-commerce only.

**Chair,**

The priorities of developing countries on development finance should be well captured in sub-programmes. To that effect, our group notes with concern the equal treatment of countries with economies in transition with the least developed countries across sub-programmes. This minimizes and my negatively impact on UNCTAD's assistance to other more vulnerable groups of countries, including Africa's middle income countries. We also note that UNCTAD's support to countries under universal coercive measures, as agreed in the Nairobi Maafikiano, does not feature in the document.

**Chair,**

Commodities are very crucial to Africa therefore we expect their equal treatment with other issues, in the relevant Subprogrammes. On Subprogramme five, we are of the view that challenges facing Africa have sufficiently been identified therefore the division's work should be focused on providing pragmatic solutions and policy advice on addressing economic development challenges for Africa. The African Group re-iterates the importance of Structural transformation and the need for integration into the multilateral trading system as key to all developing countries including Africa. We are concerned however that paragraphs 19(k) and (g), dealing with these issues, do not include Africa at all, instead they take on board countries with economies in transition.

**Chair,**

With regards to the **revised list of outputs for the biennium 2016-17**, contained in Conference Room Paper (CRP.4), we would like to see provision made for the pending **Single Year Experts Meeting on Promoting Value Addition and Enhancing Production Capacity**. Furthermore, we would like to see provisions for the full operationalization of the two new Intergovernmental Expert Groups agreed upon in the Maafikiano, and as alluded to earlier, on equal basis.

We look forward to meaningful deliberations and we reassure you of our full cooperation.

I thank you