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Trade and Development Board
UNCTAD

Statement
delivered by Javid Sadikhov of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

14 September 2020

H.E. Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov, the elected chairman of this session

Madam Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the commencement, allow me to congratulate you and Ms. Neema Manongi on your election. I would also like to thank Madam Isabel Dourant, Deputy Secretary General, for her remarks that will lead our discussions in the coming days.

We highly appreciate the hard work disbursed by the secretariat in preparing the budget and providing the relevant documents in a timely manner.

We are only a decade away from assessing our progress against the strategic targets set in the 2030 Agenda. Unfortunately, it is an undeniable fact that the current pace of COVID19 pandemic has become a serious obstruct on this progress which we have been vigorously working for many years. Although many will continue to rely on assistance from developed countries the importance of the South-South cooperation should not be overlooked.

Through the last several years, we witnessed the continuous reductions in UNCTAD’s budget while the demand for its assistance and services has steadily grown. We stress the importance of balanced financing of the subprograms and providing the Secretariat with adequate resources to fully implement the mandate entrusted to it.
We believe that UNCTAD’s Secretariat should be fulfilling its whole mandate, a particular attention should be given to the developing countries priorities in the program plan. Assistance should be based on demand driven approach. Nonetheless, given the current global circumstances related to the ongoing pandemic, debt management and relief, digital economy and new technologies, new national investment policies and programs may be particularly interesting for developing and least developed countries and thus, can be made a priority.

We look forward to productive discussions and remain ready to constructively engage in deliberations on relevant agenda items in the coming days.

I thank you Mr. Chair.