

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission,
Fourth session
Geneva, 26–30 November 2012**

**Opening Plenary
General statements by regional groups
Speaker: Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China**

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Triyono Wibowo
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, WTO and other
International Organizations in Geneva
Chair of the Group of 77 and China**

**At the Fourth Session of the Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development
26 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman, H.E. Mr. Evan P. Garcia (Philippines)
Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary General of UNCTAD,
Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division of Investment and Enterprise,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great pleasure and honour for me to deliver a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Allow me, at the outset, to extend to you, Mr. Chairman and all members of the Bureau our congratulations on your election. I am confident that under your able leadership and wise guidance, our meeting at this session of the Investment Commission will be able to arrive at productive outcomes. The Group of 77 and China would also like to extend to you our assurances and commitment to the successful conclusion of our work.

2. Allow also extend our sincere thanks to the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Supacai Panitchpakdi for his comprehensive review and very interesting thought on the role of science, technology and innovation in investment and development, which is certainly very useful for our deliberation.

Mr. Chairman.

3. At the opening of the Session of the Commission on Trade two weeks ago, the Group of 77 and China expressed its concern that we had not been able to have agreed substantive topics for this session. It is encouraging however, that in the course of deliberation we were able to identify a lot of substantive issues, which led us to arrive at a brief yet important agreed conclusion at the Trade Commission. We appreciate the constructive engagement of our development partners and we look forward to further cultivating this constructive spirit, and building upon it, in order to strengthen further our consensus building efforts at this session and beyond.

4. With regard to the work of this Commission, allow me to highlight some key elements that our Group considers important for our deliberation at this session.

5. First, we continue to emphasize the importance of investing in building up the necessary development infrastructure particularly in developing countries. This entails recognizing the funding gaps facing governments as well fostering the conditions necessary for the business sector to contribute fully and meaningfully as partners in development. Part of this lies in ensuring that the business sector transcends its commercial mentality and recognizes the economic importance of socially responsible activity and work.

6. Second, and related to this, we underscore the importance of addressing the role of the developmental state. This entails addressing the facilitating and catalytic role of the state, as well as the importance of the State in addressing externalities. This consequently also means ensuring that the relevant state infrastructure, including governance structures and human resources, are adequate to meet the various need and priorities of countries, particularly developing countries.

7. Third, the role of the private sector in stimulating economic growth and development through strengthened entrepreneurship is of critical importance. A strong developmental state does not weaken entrepreneurship or initiative – it fosters and encourages it. The inextricable links between the enabling role of the state and strengthening the private sector merit more serious reflection in view of the importance of the road towards 2015, as well as in response to the global economic and financial crisis.

8. Finally, the issue of sustainability must be squarely addressed in the near future. The current trend is to look at sustainability in environmental terms – with a close link to environmental sustainability. While this is important, the sustainability issue must encompass sustainability over time, and over changing conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

9. While we recognize that investment is largely a private-sector activity, governments can and do influence the manner and direction in which investments are channeled. Efforts should be made to address the sustainability dimension including by building the capacity and infrastructure in developing countries for them to remain as attractive investment destinations, as well as for them to be able to better channel investment in a more development friendly manner.

10. By way of conclusion, Mr. Chairman, it is important to examine and further refine the global economic architecture as it pertains to investment, including addressing the development implications of international investment agreements to ensure that they contribute to development, or at the very least ensure that they do not detract, including by constraining policy space unnecessarily.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.