

Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

Agenda Item 10:
UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and
follow-up to the outcomes
of major United Nations conferences and summits
in the economic and social fields

Speaker: Asian Group

Friday, 20 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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ASIAN GROUP

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Sabir Ismail,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq,
on behalf of the Asian Group,
at the sixty session of the
Trade and Development Board**

**Agenda Item 10: UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the
outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

Geneva, 20 September 2013

Mr. President.
Mr. Deputy Secretary General
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues

1. At the outset I wish to thank the secretariat for its presentation as well as for the documentation prepared for this meeting. Allow me also to align this statement of the Asian Group with that of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President.

2. As in previous years, the Asian Group underscores the importance of this agenda item where we consider the contribution of UNCTAD's three pillars to the accomplishment of the broader UN development agenda. Under this agenda item, therefore, we would *inter alia* formulate a clear and predictable program of work including planning formal and informal meetings of the Board. It is clear that we have yet to fully harness this potential, and in this regard, the historic convergence of processes before us heightens the urgency to do so.
3. The Asian Group is therefore especially encouraged by the strong message from Dr. Kituyi that UNCTAD has to be involved in the crucial processes ahead including the articulation of the post-2015 development agenda.
4. As mentioned in our group's general statement, this work could be facilitated by ensuring that UNCTAD's institutional arrangements include provisions for monitoring and planning work with regard to the major development-related processes under way, as well as to interface with the other pillars to ensure that their efforts are well focused and complementary. The designation of a focal point in the secretariat, if one does not yet

exist, could be an important step in this direction and would also considerably help the work of the intergovernmental machinery by providing it with a clear interlocutor for this important and historic work.

5. The actual consideration of this agenda item could also be improved in future sessions, including by providing for interaction with other UN bodies, such as the regional commissions, in order to foster a more dynamic discussion that leads to more effective intergovernmental action.

Thank you Mr. President.