

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Trade and Development Board
Sixty-first session**

Geneva, 15–26 September 2014

**Item 6: Economic Development in Africa:
Catalysing Investment for Transformative Growth in Africa**

Speaker: Brazil on behalf of the GRULAC

Thursday, 18 September 2014

*Not checked against delivery **

* This statement is made available in the language and form in which it was received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Statement by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), to the Sixty-first Session of the Trade and Development Board

Agenda Item 6: Economic development in Africa: Catalysing investment for transformative growth in Africa

Thursday, 18 September 2014

Madam Chair, H.E. Ambassador Yvette Stevens (Sierra Leona);
Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

1. My delegation would like to congratulate UNCTAD's Secretariat, on behalf of the Latin American Group, for the analysis contained in the 2014 Report on Economic Development in Africa, the focus of which lies on catalyzing investment for transformative growth in the continent.

2. As we all know, the African continent experienced a high and sustained wave of growth in the past decade and weathered relatively well the effects of the 2008 crisis. Today, the continent's level of growth remains considerably higher than the world's average, but according to UNCTAD even more robust growth rates, in the order of 7% per year, would be required just to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

3. As for all developing countries, the challenge of growth in Africa is compounded by the imperatives of combating poverty, reducing inequality and ensuring a sustainable development pattern. In this regard, although there can be no one size fits all solutions to development, UNCTAD's emphasis this year on the critical and cross-cutting issue of investment seems a very useful way to focus minds and propose concrete action.

Madam Chair,

4. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the future Sustainable Development Goals will require a holistic approach, innovative thinking and certainly an appropriate financing strategy. In this regard, UNCTAD's report presents many useful recommendations, to be analyzed and assimilated into national strategies to boost both public and private investment as deemed appropriate by African countries. The idea presented in the report about the leveraging of official development assistance as a guarantee mechanism to reduce risks faced by lenders and investors is a good example of innovative thinking on the part of UNCTAD that can help developing countries both in Africa and elsewhere.

5. As we speak of concrete action it is commendable that the African Union established a strategic plan that prioritizes issues to be considered in the post-2015 development agenda, which includes not only economic transformation, but also innovation and technology transfer, human development and financing and partnerships.

6. Even in light of the negative impacts that the recent economic crisis has had on traditional ODA providers, UNCTAD's analysis on the various challenges faced by African countries on the path to development, as well as their enormous potential as both markets and suppliers for goods and services, serves as a powerful argument against diminishing or otherwise curtailing official development assistance to developing economies, particularly to African countries.

7. In as much as ODA can effectively be directed to promote structural change, strengthen productive capacity, reduce inequality and increase jobs and income in Africa, it can help generate a virtuous cycle to the benefit of everyone, ODA providers included. After all, one of the most pervasive and persistent problems of the current global economic crisis is the lack of global demand and, as we have abundantly seen, high growth rates in developing countries has been the most dynamic component of global growth in the last decade.

8. Although North-South cooperation remains essential in the context of African development, South-South cooperation also plays an important and complementary role, particularly as it favors a different kind of interaction among countries that can share successful strategies for overcoming similar challenges.

Thank you Madam Chair.