



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15 Joint Statement
at the 63rd session of the Trade and Development Board

Geneva, 5-9 December 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

1. I would like to make this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a cross regional Group of developing countries focused on South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue. The G-15 strives to foster and promote sustainable development among the member countries through identified common goals and leveraged capacities.

Mr. Chairman,

2. First of all, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and express our appreciation for the commendable work accomplished during your tenure as Chair which has given a greater impact to this Council. Our appreciation is also extended to your team for the smooth execution of your mandate. The Group also wishes to thank Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi Secretary General of UNCTAD and his staff for their continued efforts for the benefit of all members.
3. The Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 22 July 2016. This Session which is an opportunity for the 194 members of UNCTAD to define the mandate of this institution for the next four years, was themed “From Decisions to Actions, Moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development.” After intense negotiations, the members found a compromise on a document of the conference titled “Nairobi Maafikiano.”

This document constitutes the mandated role of UNCTAD for the next four years and reflects on the desire of its members to put into concrete action the decisions and outcomes of the international conferences in 2015, in particular the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis-Ababa Action Plan on Financing for Development.

4. In this regard, the G-15 believes that UNCTAD should continue to play its distinctive role in providing support to developing countries through effective policy and multilateral responses in order to cope with their development challenges.

5. We reaffirm the central role of the UNCTAD as an organisation of the United Nations system, through its three pillars: Research and Analysis, Consensus-building and Technical Cooperation. The Group also encourages and thanks the UNCTAD Secretariat for its efforts to improve its services to developing countries.
6. Regarding the technical cooperation, the G-15 emphasises UNCTAD's importance for most of the developing countries in general and in particular in Africa Asia and Latin America.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished colleagues,

7. The G-15 would wish to express its appreciation as UNCTAD gives importance to the Least Developed Countries through its increasing support for this category of countries. However it is important to note that although some developed countries continue to support UNCTAD through their contributions, these commitments may in the future represent only half of the contributions for the recipient countries. This situation may create a negative impact on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the outcomes of UNCTAD XIV.
8. Overall the G-15 recognizes and appreciates UNCTAD's work in assisting developing countries to foster sustainable development through technical assistance which are linked to trade.
9. In conclusion, the G-15 hopes that the activities of UNCTAD will be fruitful and will provide an effective contribution in the pursuit of a sustainable development based on shared and mutually beneficial solutions for all.

Thank you for your attention.
