

**Statement by His Excellency Amb. Modest Jonathan Mero**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the**  
**United Republic of Tanzania,**  
**At the opening of the 63rd Session of the**  
**Trade and Development Board**

**Geneva, 5 December 2016**

**Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda)**

**Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Mr. President,**

It is my honor to make this statement on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania. I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the Distinguished Ambassador of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Ambassador of Namibia on behalf of the Africa Group and Ambassador of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group.

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, allow me, to congratulate you upon your election as the president of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, we will be successful in achieving all the objectives of this important annual session. We are also convinced that throughout your chairmanship of the TDB, you will guide all of us towards constructive engagement and fruitful results. Let me also take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation for Ambassador Alfredo Suescum of Panama, who demonstrated an excellent leadership during preparations of UNCTAD 14 that led to successful outcome document namely the Nairobi Maafikiano and as President of the Trade and Development Board.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me also to thank Secretary General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi for his elaborate statement outlaying his vision for the implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano. I would like to assure you that, my delegation is ready to closely work with you in all your endeavors to further enhance the management effectiveness and the intellectual credibility of UNCTAD.

**Mr. President,**

The global community is now engaged in a process of finding pragmatic solutions for the implementation of the ambitious Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. UNCTAD, as a UN think-tank with its mandate of treating trade, investment, finance, science and technology and development in an integrated manner, will play a key role. We are confident, **Mr. President**, that under your able guidance UNCTAD would significantly enhance its contribution towards providing effective means for the attainment of goals and targets for Agenda 2030 as envisaged in the Maafikiano and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

**Mr. President,**

This annual TDB session is an important opportunity for all of us to engage in constructive deliberations on crucial issues of development. The UNCTAD Secretariat has prepared, useful documents on the state of play of the global economy and global trade. We appreciate the members of Secretariat for their efforts in producing these useful documents. My delegation believes that these inputs will help members to have an informed discussion and debate with the objective of understanding and finding solutions for the global development challenges we all face.

**Mr. President,**

It is encouraging that in Nairobi we were able to agree on revitalisation of the Intergovernmental Machinery. We therefore view that, successful agreement on the operationalization of the two Intergovernmental Expert groups on Financing for Development and E-commerce and digital economy to be the most significant outcome of the TDB session and in advancing our commitment to revitalise the Intergovernmental machinery.

**Mr. President,**

Illicit financial flows are impacting developing countries, in particular Africa and require urgent actions by the international community. Over the last 50 years, Africa is estimated to have lost in excess of \$1 trillion in illicit financial flows (IFFs). This sum is roughly equivalent to all of the official development assistance received by Africa during the same timeframe. Currently, Africa is estimated to be losing more than \$50 billion annually in IFFs. But these estimates may well fall short of reality because accurate data do not exist for all African countries, and these estimates often exclude some forms of IFFs that by nature are secret and cannot be properly estimated, such as proceeds of bribery and trafficking of drugs, people and firearms.

**Mr. President,**

IFFs as a core component of the AAAA and the FfD follow-up process we call upon UNCTAD as a major institutional stakeholder of the FfD follow-up process, and given its role as UN focal point for the integrated treatment of development topics, to contribute effectively on the issues under the FfD agenda, including illicit financial flows.

**Mr. President,**

In closing, I wish to reiterate the full support of the Government of Tanzania for UNCTAD, and assure my delegation's highest cooperation during your tenure.

**I thank you Mr. President.**