



G-15 Joint Statement
at the 64th Session of the Trade and Development Board
Geneva, 11-22 September, 2017

Mr. President

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have the honour to present this statement on behalf of the G-15, a Grouping of developing countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to thank you Mr. President and express our appreciation for the commendable work accomplished during your tenure as president which has given a greater impact to this august forum. 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.

Mr. President,

The world economy is still experiencing a fragile status, a legacy which was left since 2008 when an international financial and economic crisis erupted. Based on statistics the world economic growth in 2016 is well below 2.5 per cent compared to 2014 and 2015. Though the economies of developed countries were able to reasonably manage the 2008-2009 economic and financial crisis, they at the same time prepared the ground for developing countries to lose economic momentum in the past few years. If there is no change in the past trend, external environment looks to be worsened especially when is encountered by unexpected shocks.

Mr. President,

In order to tackle the challenges we face, it requires concerted actions at the national, regional and international levels, creating a suitable international environment conducive to assisting developing countries to deal with the challenges and at the same time to achieve SDGs. Meanwhile the role of the related international organizations particularly UNCTAD is also highlighted in assisting developing countries to cope with the challenges and paving the way for achieving sustainable development goals.

UNCTAD was established to promote an inclusive global economy, through informing national and international policies, while giving priority consideration for the needs and interests of developing countries. It also has a critical role to play in advising on the policy dimensions of trade and sustainable development and supporting the actions which flow from recent global agreements and outcomes, while promoting the integrity and the complementarity of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

As indicated in para 4 of the Maafikiano, UNCTAD has a distinct role to play in carrying forward the trade and development mission of the United Nations. Therefore the G-15 reaffirms 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.

Mr. President,

While reaffirming the importance of the role of the UNCTAD in trade and development, we request the Secretary General to give priority in implementing Maafikiano to the areas which are of high importance to developing countries and assist them to achieve the SDGs including debt management, investment, technology transfer, tax issues.

Mr. President,

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, regions represented by our Group. The G-15 has deliberated with profound interest the Least Developed Countries Report 2016 entitled "The path to graduation and beyond: Making the most of the process", prepared by the Secretariat for the present session of the Trade and Development Board, and wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for

the enlightening analysis projected in the report in such a way that delineated a roadmap for the graduation of the least developed countries from the said category of countries, and provided possible means of further pursuing their development goals.

Mr. President,

Last but not least, the G-15 wishes also to note and to commend the sincere endeavours that you are undertaking with a view to operationalize the two Intergovernmental Expert Groups stipulated in the Nairobi Maafikiano; namely Intergovernmental Expert Group on E-commerce and the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Financing for Development. We believe that these two groups would significantly contribute to the UNCTAD in implementing its development agenda.

Moreover, the G-15 believes that your initiative aimed at revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery of the UNCTAD should have as its ultimate objective improving the said machinery –in its various layers- in such a way that renders it more capable and efficient in implementing the mandate of the UNCTAD as outlined in the Nairobi Maafikiano and other related instruments.

We thank you.