



GROUP OF 77 & CHINA  
G E N E V A

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. JAMES ALEX MSEKELA  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED  
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION GENEVA, 11–22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi,  
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Isabelle Durant,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. **Mr. President**, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Group warmly congratulates you on assuming the Presidency of the Trade and Development Board for the period 2017 – 2018. We are sure that we will achieve concrete and fruitful results, for which you have the full support of our Group. Allow me also to express our appreciation and admiration to His Excellency Ambassador Christopher Onyanga Aparr of Uganda for his service, courage and dedication during **Phase I** of implementation of the **Nairobi Maafikiano**.
2. **Mr. President**, The G77 and China would like to thank the Secretary-General for his introductory statement, and also express its most sincere appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for organizing this meeting, and for its continuing support to member states.
3. **Mr. President**, The Group also wishes to congratulate all incoming Chairs and officers for their elections to various UNCTAD Bodies for the 2017-2018.
4. **Mr. President**, It has been over a year since we adopted the Nairobi Maafikiano. In that time, we have made some progress in revitalisation of the Intergovernmental Machinery, particularly on the establishment of the two Intergovernmental working groups for **Financing for Development** and **E-Commerce**. While we may have not progressed as quickly as we had expected, we have been able to nurture and strengthen the spirit of Nairobi and we are more confident than ever that all of UNCTAD's membership looks forward to an institution that will play its expected role at the centre of the development community thus helping to realize prosperity for all. We therefore also look to the secretariat for a clear view on how it will play its role in fostering the UNCTAD that we aspire to. An important first step is to fully appreciate how the UNCTAD secretariat is implementing the vigorous mandate it has been given in Nairobi. This is crucial: we must always remember that UNCTAD is the focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in finance, investment, technology and sustainable

development. Such a broad mandate creates great expectations and aspirations, especially for us developing countries.

5. **Mr. President,** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established Fifty Three Years ago to fulfil the demands of developing countries in confronting obstacles and barriers at international level, to realize their economic potential. We are aware of some improvement in few geographical regions. However, many of developing countries are still facing challenges at all levels due to uncertain and difficult global economic environment and trade regimes.
6. **Mr. President,** Many of our economies continue to be negatively affected by stagnant and low commodity prices that are showing little sign of improving substantially. Moreover, a still very sluggish recovery from the global financial crisis – according to UNCTAD estimates in 2016, global output decelerated to 2.2%, disappointing global trade growth, negative net capital flows to developing economies, continuing financial fragility and the prevalence of high risk financing instruments in international financial markets, all combine to weaken our developmental prospects. As a result of these developments, current account balances have, overall, moved against developing countries and in favour of advanced economies in recent years, and we are particularly worried about the mounting prospects of substantial financial and sovereign debt crisis in many of our economies.
7. **Mr. President,** An additional challenge is posed by large capital flight in the form of illicit financial flows exploiting weaknesses in our tax and other fiscal structures and mechanisms, as well as continuing insufficiencies in international tax corporation. UNCTAD significance hinges on its ability to continue providing a reliable platform for addressing these issues by developing countries.
8. **Mr. President,** In Nairobi, we agreed to strengthen the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. The Group of 77 and China would like to emphasise that Intergovernmental machinery should remain at the heart of UNCTAD while appropriately backed by other two pillars, namely policy analysis and technical assistance. The establishment of the two intergovernmental groups of experts on ***Financing for Development*** and ***E-Commerce***, is a positive move towards strengthening the machinery. The policy recommendations from the two working groups will serve as important instrument in their respective areas.
9. **Mr. President,** We also count on the Secretary General of UNCTAD, to help guiding us in this process of revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. The Group therefore looks forward to the Secretary General's vision on how we can fulfill what is perhaps the most important agreement in the Nairobi Maafikiano: ***the revitalization of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery***.
10. **Mr. President,** One of the key agenda before this TDB is to take appropriate decisions under agenda item 13 – that requires action by the TDB concerning matters in the follow-up to the UNCTAD 14. We encourage all Member States to take decisions with the constructive spirit that led us to the Nairobi Outcome.

11. **Mr. President**, In closing, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to working with UNCTAD through its three pillars of consensus building, research and analysis, as well as technical cooperation, so that we may continue to utilize the international trading system to promote sustainable development and achieve prosperity for all. We will continue our constructive engagement during this TDB and beyond in order to arrive at a mutually agreed and effective outcome of our deliberations.

**I thank You Mr. President.**