



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A**

**INTERVENTIONS 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 ON EVOLUTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM AND ITS TRENDS FROM A DEVELOPMENT
PERSPECTIVE AGENDA ITEM 7 AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION
GENEVA, 11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

- International trade continues to be one major source of finance for developing countries. G77 and China appreciates that trade is a better route than aid because it can make our countries stand on their own feet. That is why the group will continue to advocate for better global trade policies that can enable countries to benefit from the multilateral trading system (MTS).
- In the last two decades, since the creation of the World Trade Organization, global trade in goods has expanded to unprecedented level from \$5 trillion in 1995 to about \$ 16 trillion in 2016 for exports, and imports of almost the same, and developing countries as a group obtained an important share of 44%.
- However, the catch-up process of developing countries in relation to export growth has largely stalled since 2012, both in relation to goods and services. Since then, the trade patterns of developing countries have followed a trend similar to that of the developed countries.
- Asia's share in world trade of goods is about 36%, Latin America about 6% and Africa about 2% only. In manufactured goods, Asia accounts for about 40%, Latin America 4% and Africa only 1%. At country level, my country Tanzania for example accounts for only 0.03% and that is the standard share for most African countries.
- Yet, in 1964 Africa's share in world exports of goods was about 6%, Latin America 7% and Asia 10%. The point I make here is that Africa, the most marginalized of the G77 and China participated in global trade effectively six decades ago and it would be appreciated if it can be supported to get back to that level of integration. More importantly, developing countries, especially the marginalized majority need more support to diversify and upgrade their exports to manufactured goods and services which are less vulnerable to external global threats.
- In terms of policy support, the MTS can play an important role by eliminating protectionism in agriculture and cotton, namely domestic support; elimination of export subsidies in

fisheries; developing multilateral disciplines for addressing non-tariff barriers; proving more market access for developing countries in services especially Mode 4; making WTO rights of developing countries through more development-friendly special and differential treatment.

- As mandated by UNCTAD 14: Nairobi “Maafikiano, UNCTAD should continue its good work in supporting developing countries, in particular LDCs in the monitoring of international trade and trading system and advocating greater integration. Specifically, and here I cannot mention everything but stick to a few.
- The G77 and China appreciates UNCTAD's support in different activities. Some of our members are receiving (i) support in trade policy formulation and implementation to help them diversify and add value to their exports; (ii) UNCTAD should continue to help countries in services trade development including policy reviews, and help LDCs in implementation of the services trade preferences in WTO, (iii) continue to provide support in international and regional trade negotiations such as continental free trade area; (iv) in matters of WTO accession; addressing NTBs, and integrating sustainable development in trade and development.

I thank you Mr. President.