



**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 ON THE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA REPORT 2017: TOURISM FOR  
TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH  
ITEM 6  
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE TRADE AND  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD, GENEVA, 11–22 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Mr. President,**

**Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates.**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, the G77 and China would like to commend UNCTAD Secretariat for the informative report on Africa and the role that Tourism Sector can play in Africa's development process.

**Mr. President,**

Africa has a major opportunity to harness the potential of tourism to foster development and increase its participation in the global economy. In addition,

tourism creates opportunities for millions of host communities in Africa and provides revenues for cultural and environmental preservation. Tourism sector has the capacity to stimulate economic growth through creation of Jobs and by attracting investment and fostering entrepreneurship.

**Mr. President,**

It is pleasing to note that international tourist arrivals to Africa grew by an average of 6 per cent for the period of 1995 -2014, and tourism export revenues 9 percent per year. The average total contribution of tourism to gross domestic product (GDP) increased from \$69 billion in 1995 -1998 to \$166 billion in 2011 - 2014, that is from 6.8 per cent of GDP in Africa to 8.5 percent of GDP. Furthermore, tourism generated more than 21 million jobs on average in 2011 - 2014, which translates into 7.1 per cent of all jobs in Africa.

**Mr. President,**

Despite this impressive performance, the continent is still suffering from high financial leakages from the tourism sector. It is therefore crucial to continue support African countries to foster economic diversification. Consequently, it is vital to encourage Africa to develop strong intersectoral linkages so as to ensure greater capture of tourists' expenditures – a key determinant in facilitating the transfer of economic benefits from the sector to local communities, with incomes derived from employment and business opportunities contributing to improved livelihoods and poverty reduction.

**Mr. President,**

Finally, the G77 and China supports recommendations of the 2017 report and will continue with our commitment to support UNCTAD in its work.

**I thank you Mr. President.**