

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, AUDU AYINLA KADIRI,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA AT
THE OPENING OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF UNCTAD, GENEVA, 4TH JUNE, 2018**

**Mr. President,
Secretary General of UNCRAD,
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my honour to present this statement on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. At the onset, permit me to associate myself with the statements delivered by Ambassador Farukh Amil of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and that of Ambassador Elamin of Sudan on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

2. May I also congratulate you upon your election as the President of the 65th Session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. My delegation is confident that under your able and inspiring leadership, the 65th Session of the TDB will be successful. We pledge our unflinching support and commitment towards the fulfilment of your mandate. We also wish to congratulate the immediate past President of the TDB, Ambassador Tudor Ulianoschi of Moldova. We commend his tireless effort in steering the work of the TDB, especially during the negotiations on the revitalisation of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD as mandated by the Nairobi Maafikiano.

Mr. President,

3. Allow me also to **sincerely** thank the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi for his incisive statements and the inspiring leadership and commitment to the principle of

multilateralism. I would like to assure you that my delegation is ready to work closely with you in all your endeavours to further enhance the relevance of the work of UNCTAD with the United Nations System.

5. My delegation is delighted to note that UNCTAD has fully operationalized the two new Intergovernmental Group of Experts meetings, that of Financing for Development and E-Commerce and the Digital Economy, as mandated under the Nairobi Maafikiano. We sincerely hope that these expert meetings will come up with actionable resolutions that will impact on their specific mandates.

6. As we are moving towards the mid-term review of the Nairobi Maafikiano, we call on all delegations to cooperate fully to ensure the successful completion of the revitalisation of UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery and the mid-term review.

7. This 65th TDB Session is an important opportunity for all of us to engage in constructive deliberations on crucial issues of trade and development. The successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the developing countries, should be a matter of concern for all of us in this TDB. Resource mobilisation, both at the local and international levels, is crucial for the attainment of the goals and targets of Agenda 2030 as envisaged in the Nairobi Maafikiano and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

8. I thank you for your attention.