

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Trade and Development Board  
24-28 June 2019**

**Group D Statements**

**Statements delivered by  
Mr. Taavo Lumiste, Group D coordinator  
Permanent Mission of Estonia in Geneva**

**Item 1 - Procedural matters**

**a) Election of Officers**

Mr. President, Secretary General, Excellences, honoured Delegates,

On behalf of Group D and its Member States I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, the Ambassador of Lebanon, H.E. Salim Baddoura, for his dedicated work and engagement during the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the TDB. Under your leadership, we have achieved quite some results in order to enhance the working methods of the UNCTAD governing bodies, as well as we have seen success stories in Nairobi Maafikiano implementation.

We stand at a critical crossroad now, with only a year to finish our job with Maafikiano. Therefore, we welcome the new Chair, H.E. Amb. Gaffey of Ireland, to complete this job and to guide us during the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the TDB, which also will be a crucial year to prepare for the UNCTAD XV Conference.

Amb. Gaffey, we wish you all the best in your endeavours and we look forward to working with you in the most constructive and future-oriented way on the important tasks ahead of us.

*Thank you.*