

**Trade and Development Board, fifty-ninth session**  
Geneva, 17–28 September 2012

**Item 10: UNCTAD's contribution to the  
implementation of and follow-up to the  
outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and  
summits in the economic and social fields**

**General statements by regional groups**  
**Speaker: The Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the  
Asian Group**

**Wednesday, 19 September 2012**

*Not checked against delivery \**

\* This statement is made available in the language and form in which it was received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE ASIAN GROUP  
AT THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF UNCTAD

**On Agenda Item 10 UNCTAD's Contribution to the implementation of and the follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

Geneva, 19 September 2012

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Asian Group. The Group aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia as the coordinator of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, the Asian Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the report prepared to facilitate our discussions today.

Mr. President,

The Group commends UNCTAD for its proactive contributions, through its three pillars, to the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

In the field of international trade, the Asian Group supports and encourages UNCTAD to continue its work with regard to the international trading system, trade and development strategies for mitigating the impact of the global crisis, and to provide substantive support and technical assistance to developing countries in their participation in multilateral and regional trade negotiations in particular to acceding countries to WTO. We also call upon UNCTAD to continue its support to the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) thus furthering expansion of South-South trade opportunities.

The Group thanks UNCTAD for its major contribution to the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries UNLDC-IV and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Mr. President,

The Asian Group appreciates the work of UNCTAD in the field of debt management. The Group encourages UNCTAD to further its contribution, especially through technical cooperation programs in order for developing countries to well-manage their external debt. In addition, the Group conveys its appreciation to UNCTAD in assisting developing countries in strengthening their debt capacity through DMFAS or the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System.

Mr. President,

Increasing domestic productive capacities is of great importance in attracting foreign investment, in engaging in high tech activities and in integrating in the global value chains. The Asian Group values UNCTAD's analytical work in investment, in particular the annual *World Investment Reports*. The Group would also like to thank UNCTAD for organizing the third World Investment Forum (WIF2012, 20–23 April 2012), held in conjunction with UNCTAD XIII. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss new investment strategies and partnerships, with a focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Science and technology are also key to development. The Asian Group recognizes UNCTAD's contributions as the Secretariat of the ECOSOC subsidiary body, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), and the contribution of the CSTD to the implementation and follow-up to the World Summit on Information Technology (WSIS).

Mr. President,

The global economy weakened significantly towards the end of 2011 and downside risks remain alarmingly high in mid-2012 and there is a very real danger of a repeat of the calamity in world markets.

The Asian Group appreciates UNCTAD's valuable contribution in analysing the causes of the economic and financial crisis and recommending policy strategies. The research and analytical work together with discussions within UNCTAD on the global economic and financial crisis are timely and appropriate. The Asian Group supports UNCTAD's continued positive contributions in the areas of global financial and monetary issues as well as those on commodities and appreciates UNCTAD continued follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development of June 2009 which stresses the need for prompt and decisive action in response to the crisis.

The findings of UNCTAD on follow-up to this conference are very important and show that progress in adopting the policies called for by the 2009 Conference has been inadequate. Financial re-regulation is progressing slowly and monetary system reform is limited. This will hinder a sustained recovery of the world economy and open the door for new financial crises in the future. The gravest deficiencies in global economic governance continue to exist in international monetary and financial arrangements.

The *Trade and Development Report 2011* reviews recent trends in the global economy and shows that the widespread enthusiasm about system reform and supportive pro-growth macroeconomic policies when the crisis erupted has not lasted, and makes concrete proposals on how to advance with strengthened regulation of financial and commodity markets, reform of the international monetary system, and the reorientation of fiscal policy.

In conclusion Mr. President, while we appreciate the work of UNCTAD, the Asian Group believes that in order to benefit from the work of UNCTAD we need to find ways and means to better translate the findings and analytical work of UNCTAD into the global development agenda.

I thank you, Mr. President.