

The Sixty-Fifth Session of the Trade and Development Board
(Africa)
17 July 2017

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group.

At the outset, the Group would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General and his team for the Report on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.

It is encouraging to note the active role being played by the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa for the overall trade and development of the continent. We believe that the potential of Regional Office should be fully tapped to support African countries in key areas of trade and economic development. We would appreciate if the Secretariat could share detailed information on activities undertaken by the Regional Office. The positive experience will also be valuable in the context of other regions, along with sharing Asian experiences in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Mr. President,

The Report rightly highlights the important role of development commitments and partnership that enable a large number of activities undertaken by UNCTAD and others in support of Africa. In our view, still more important is the sustainability of commitments to realize development goals in the region.

Africa Development Report 2016 had identified two main areas of concern to African countries: debt sustainability and illicit financial flows. We believe that consensus building between developed economies and affected developing countries - many of them in Africa - should remain a priority to address issues concerning illicit financial flows. Addressing this issue will greatly benefit development requirements of the region.

Mr. President,

We should also acknowledge contributions that Africa has made for UNCTAD over the years. In particular, we thank the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the UNCTAD 14 in Nairobi last year and its leadership for a successful outcome.

In conclusion, we reiterate continuing solidarity with the African countries. Our commitment for Africa flows from staunchly supporting independence of African countries, to create a post-colonial economic order for the economic and social development of all developing countries.

I thank you.