



**African Group Statement to be delivered by  
H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Permanent representative of Sudan.  
At the 65th Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board  
Geneva, 17 July 2017**

**Mr. President,**

Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Director of the division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special  
programmes  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The Group thanks the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, for his opening remarks. While the African Group aligns itself to the statement that was delivered by Tanzania on behalf of the G.77 & China, allow me to make some additional remarks. The African Group would like to express its appreciation to the UNCTAD secretariat for preparing the report and also thanks Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director of Africa Division, LDCs and Special Programs, UNCTAD for introducing the report.

**Mr. President,**

The African Group welcomes the Report on Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in Support of Africa. The Group also takes note of UNCTAD's critical contributions in addressing some of the continent's ongoing development challenges through the activities undertaken in 2016. In this regard the Group calls upon UNCTAD to continue conducting researches and policy analysis to support African countries in transforming their economies to accelerate sustainable development and facilitate the region's integration into the world economy.

The African Group would like to congratulate once again UNCTAD for convening UNCTAD XIV last July and for providing a platform to deliberate on global economic challenges. Indeed, the conference in Nairobi brought to the fore issues that will impact on policymaking on the continent and provided a platform for policymakers to engage in dialogue on issues of critical importance to Africa such as investment, commodities, trade in services, trade facilitation, regional integration, among others.

**Mr. President,**

The African Group commends UNCTAD for collaborating with the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities across the continent, other international organizations and partners to address a range of issues in the areas of trade and economic development more broadly. The Group also takes note of the Regional Office in Africa's ongoing support to the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, and to African Governments. In this regard the Group commends UNCTAD efforts in providing technical assistance and trade capacity-building support to several regional economic communities and countries in areas such as the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), trade facilitation, development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and investment.

**Mr. President,**

The African Group is of the view that in order to harness Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for development African countries need to benefit from enhanced diffusion and transfer of available technologies, and building local innovation and productive capacity. In this context, the Group highly commends UNCTAD's work programme on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews. These reviews help developing countries to identify the measures needed to integrate STI policies into their national development strategies. They also provide the elements with which to design action agendas to strengthen national efforts to build technological and innovation capabilities.

The African Group takes note and appreciates the special efforts of UNCTAD to support many African countries and regional economic communities in transport and trade facilitation. The Group welcomes recent technical assistance aimed at building the capacity of African countries to the shift towards Sustainable Freight Transport to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, including through sustainable transport corridor development. The African Group encourages UNCTAD to continue addressing the multimodal and multidimensional aspects of transport in support of international trade.

The African Group expresses its concerns that a study conducted by UNCTAD showed that trade in primary commodity exports from developing countries particularly in Africa, underscoring the significant problem that capital flight and illicit financial flows pose to developing countries, hence the Group calls upon UNCTAD as UN focal point for the integrated treatment of development topics, to contribute effectively in providing pragmatic solutions on illicit financial flows.

The African Group takes note that the financial resources committed to Africa in 2016 have increased by 4% compared to 2015. The Group acknowledges the role of the Development partners in supporting the technical cooperation programmes of UNCTAD and encourages Partners to increase their support. Furthermore the Group also calls upon UNCTAD secretariat to allocate more financial and human resources to the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special programmes.

**Mr. President,**

While appreciating your efforts that led to the conclusion of the first phase of implementation of Nairobi Maafikiano the Group expresses its concerns of the delay of embarking in the second phase: the revitalization of UNCTAD Intergovernmental Machinery which will pave the way to other important mandates to be implemented.

Finally The African Group would like to reiterate once again the importance of this TDB Executive Session which reflects UNCTAD's wide range of activities in Africa undertaken at national, regional and continental levels. In this regard the Group is looking forward to the External evaluation of UNCTAD Subprogramme 5: Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special programmes which will be conducted next year in order to assess the impact of these activities in the African countries.

I thank **Mr. President.**