



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO UNOG

Remarks by H.E. Sabine Böhlke-Möller Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia, On behalf of the African Group,

**During the 30th Special Session of the TDB
13 June 2016**

Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, President of the TDB,

Secretary General,

Ambassador Juma,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of the African Group I would like to thank you for convening this Session of the TDB in order for us to adopt the documents of UNCTAD XIV, scheduled for 17-22 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. We would also like to express our appreciation for your and the Secretariat's tireless efforts in steering the preparatory process towards Nairobi. We appreciate the continuous co-operation of the other groups. We thank Ambassador Juma and Dr. Kithuyi, Secretary General for their wise words.

The African Group aligns itself with the remarks made by the distinguished Ambassador of Jamaica, on behalf of the G.77 and China. I would however like to add a few remarks on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

As we adopt the documents to be transmitted to UNCTAD XIV, we note that progress has been made towards agreements on the draft outcome document; however, we are concerned that much more remains to be done especially on issues that are of significant importance to the mandate and work of UNCTAD and those that are of relevance to the developing countries. We are particularly concerned by some of the expressed views that are not in the best interest of UNCTAD, as an organization, and for developing countries in general. The developing countries have been constructive during the negotiations however the reactions from the other side of the table have been discouraging as they are either aimed at re-negotiating agreed principles or to draw *red lines*, around issues that are of particular importance to the developing countries. These issues are known by all of us however we will not be amenable to downgrading agreed issues or renegotiate agreed principles. Nor will we be willing to limit or downgrade the mandate and work of UNCTAD in the outcome of the 14th Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. President,

We are also concerned by the attempts to shift the obligations of the international community to national governments alone or to other multilateral agencies. As was expressed by Ambassador Juma, who just said that '*all parties should come out as winners*', we believe that the unresolved issues only need the political will from all of us, therefore, it is our hope that we will continue to resolve most, if not all, outstanding issues before we go to Nairobi.

Once more, the African Group highly appreciates the sterling work and time you have invested in the preparatory process and we would like to assure you of all the support you may require from us, in order to make Nairobi a resounding success.

I thank you.