STATEMENT BY AMB. MONICA K. JUMA, DPHIL, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THE THIRTIETH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNCTAD TRADE ABD DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND UNCTAD XIV SECOND INFORMATION SESSION ON 13TH JUNE 2016

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
H.E. Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, President of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board,
Excellencies Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation for the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation by Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, your Excellencies Permanent Representatives, Ambassadors and delegates. I bring warm greetings from the Government and People of Kenya who are in great anticipation of UNCTAD14 in July. I feel honoured that you have welcomed me to participate in the thirtieth special session of the Trade and Development Board. My President and the Cabinet Secretary who are both in Luanda, Angola today for the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region summit await for the outcome of this interaction.

2. I also wish to seize this opportunity to recognise H.E. Ambassador Alfredo Suescum as the new President of the UNCTAD Trade and
Development Board. I assure His Excellency of the full support of the Kenyan Government and of the Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Dr. Amina C. Mohamed, as in-coming Chair of the UNCTAD14 Ministerial Conference. We indeed look forward to working closely with you in the remaining preparations and throughout the conference.

3. Kenya is honoured to host the 14th Session of the UNCTAD Conference from 17-22 July 2016 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi. I would like to avail myself of this earliest opportunity to once again extend our sincere appreciation to all members of Trade Development Board for endorsing Kenya as the host of this historic Conference.

4. Kenya has a keen interest in the process leading to, and the hosting of UNCTAD14 for several reasons. The two most important ones are: firstly, the issues being deliberated are of great significance to Kenya, just as they are to all UNCTAD member States and we are keen to see a successfully negotiated outcome to these deliberations. Secondly, the honour bestowed to Kenya to host the UNCTAD14 provides a unique opportunity to observe the 40th anniversary since Kenya hosted the UNCTAD4 conference in 1976 in exactly the same venue - the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

5. UNCTAD14 takes place at an opportune moment in time. First, the world continues to face a myriad of challenges that include and relate to financial and economic crises, debt, poverty, fluctuating commodity prices, and investment as well as environmental
uncertainties. In all these, UNCTAD has a very important role to play by way of helping find sustainable solutions.

6. Equally important is the reality that world leaders have in the recent past, agreed on several transformative agenda that aim at addressing some of the most pressing global challenges - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the COP21 Paris Agreement and the outcome of the tenth WTO Ministerial conference, among others. If implemented effectively, these can go a long way in addressing some of the global challenges we face today. Even more opportune is the fact that UNCTAD14 is among the first major UN conferences following the landmark outcomes of the year 2015.

7. The theme of UNCTAD XIV ‘Moving from Decisions to Actions’ is well timed and resonates with the current realities we face globally. Hence, there is need for the outcome of the Conference to reaffirm the mandate of UNCTAD as the principal organ of the UN, with a mandate for integrated treatment of trade and development and related issues in areas of finance, investment, technology and sustainable development. Moreover, the outcome should enable UNCTAD to play its central role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other major outcomes of the United Nations conferences and Summits. The role of UNCTAD in supporting Member States, particularly developing countries to effectively implement commitments and targets in the recent major outcomes will be most welcome.
8. As we progress with the discussions, I know the stakes are high in the negotiations, with all parties having specific interests. But I urge everyone to be accommodative and expect that all the parties should come out as winners. Most important is to have an outcome that is implementable and charts a clear mandate for UNCTAD for the next four years.

9. I am made to understand that the negotiated text will be wrapped up after this meeting to enable translation as appropriate within the required timeframe. My special request to all of you, is that you try as much as possible to complete negotiations here in Geneva. This is not to mean that there will be no work in Nairobi. As you are aware, there are several important events lined up in Nairobi that you and your delegations will want to be part of. In addition, UNCTAD14 should not just be about negotiations, it should also be a networking occasion that will contribute to UNCTAD’s overall goal of prosperity for all.

10. As regards logistical preparations, I assure delegations that the Kenyan Government is building on recent success in hosting global events to ensure the delivery of a successful UNCTAD14 Ministerial conference and associated major events that include the World Investment Forum the Global Investment Leaders Forum, the Civil Society Forum and the Youth Forum, among others. I can confirm to you all that the Cabinet Secretary, the Government and the People of Kenya are truly committed as we prepare for and proceed to host the conference.
11. In that respect, I have a very strong team in Nairobi - the National Preparatory Committee that is involved on a day-to-day basis in the preparatory process of the UNCTAD 14 Conference. The Chair of the National Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Nelson Ndirangu, is here with me and will present the details of the preparations shortly.

12. As we all look forward to 'Moving from Decisions to Actions' I once again assure you that the Government of Kenya is doing everything possible to ensure the conference is a resounding success and we look forward to receiving you in Nairobi in one month's time.

Welcome to Nairobi, Karibuni Kenya.

Asanteni Sana!

Thank you!

Merci Beaucou!