



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A**

**Statement delivered by Mr. Leulseged Tadese ABEBE (Ethiopia)
on behalf of the Group of 77 and China
at the 67th Session of the Working Party on the
Strategic Framework and the Program Budget**

Wednesday, 12 March 2014

Mr. President, H.E. El-Murtada Moubarak
Mr. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates

1. At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to congratulate you upon your election as the Chairman of the Sixty-seventh session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Program Budget of UNCTAD. Under your able leadership, we believe that this session of the Working Party will achieve all its objectives. I would like to assure you the full the support of my group.

2. We thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Petko Draganov for his introductory statements and we would also like to express our appreciation for the UNCTAD Secretariat for organizing this meeting and preparing the background documents.

Mr. Chairman,

3. We recognize the importance of this session of the working party as it deals with issues of publication, communications, and thanks to our unfinished work, the funding of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities. These are all crucial matters to ensure the full and timely implementation of the Doha Mandate. The activities related to communication and publications are useful channels by which UNCTAD reaches out to its beneficiaries, and conversely receive feedback which could in turn further improve the work of the secretariat.

4. We are pleased to note that the Report on the readership survey of the main publications of UNCTAD in 2013 has demonstrated that the intellectual products of UNCTAD have been rated positively with high grades. The general review has resulted that the main publications and other publications have received 4.1 out of 5 and 3.9 out of 5 respectively.

5. The results reveal that the works of UNCTAD are well appreciated by government policy makers, other international organizations, civil society and the academic community and the media. At the same time, the survey result should encourage the UNCTAD secretariat to further enhance the quality, relevance and timeliness of its intellectual works with the objective of impacting the global debate on development. Yet we are also aware that the response rate to the readership surveys has been disappointing and we encourage all of our colleagues to work towards improving the response rate.

6. The Report on the implementation of the communications strategy and publications policy outlines the activities of the UNCTAD secretariat in enhancing the visibility of its work, effective dissemination of publications and the mainstreaming of the best communication practices. The Report also focuses on planning and managing of publications based on the feedback of all users. We commend the Secretariat for improving its online presence by focusing on the website of UNCTAD, developing online tools, updating the web portals, by integrating the external and stand alone websites. While recognizing the limited work on social media, we see areas for further improvement in this regard.

7. Similarly, the Secretariat should do more to improve its communications with member states particularly with Permanent Missions in Geneva. We remind the secretariat once more that the channel of communications between UNCTAD and member governments is through the permanent missions, and we strongly encourage the secretariat to respect this channel. One area where this is particularly important is when their respective countries are the subject of case studies and similar activities. Similarly, the Permanent Missions should be also informed in advance when experts are invited for any meeting of UNCTAD.

8. We also express caution with regard to the streamlining of publications. While we see a certain logic in this, there is a need to ensure that the existing flagship publications and other studies that are relevant for our policy makers are not adversely affected.

Mr. Chairman,

9. It has been more than a year since the membership has been considering the draft fundraising strategy for the technical cooperation activities as presented by the Secretariat. The draft has been a good base for constructive engagement among the entire membership. We do believe that UNCTAD should have a funding strategy that ensures the efficiency of the delivery of technical cooperation in an effective, sustainable, and predictable manner. It is time that this session of the Working party agrees on the draft strategy document so that it should be agreed at the next session of the TDB. This would greatly enable the Secretariat to further enhance the impact and quality of its work on a key pillar of UNCTAD.

10. We reiterate the commitment and readiness of our Group to see a successful outcome under your leadership

Thank you Mr. Chairman.