

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

**Opening Plenary**

**Speaker: South Africa**

**Monday, 16 September 2013**

*Not checked against delivery \**

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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
16-27 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**TO BE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR AS MINTY, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

H.E Ambassador Triyono Wibowo

Dr Mukhisa Kituyi and

H.E Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by congratulating His Excellency, Ambassador Wibowo on his election to preside over the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Trade and Development Board. Ambassador, you take this leadership role at a challenging time as we approach the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD and as the international community starts deliberating on the UN development agenda beyond 2015, which this organisation will have to be an integral part of. We are confident in your leadership and in your ability to successfully steer the organisation through these challenging times.

We wish to recognise the sterling contribution that Ambassador Juri Seilenthal of Estonia and Ambassador Mukhtar Tileuberdi of Kazakhstan made to the work of UNCTAD, and for their leadership in their terms as Presidents of the Trade and Development Board.

I now have the pleasant task to welcome our dear brother, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, the newly appointed Secretary-General of UNCTAD and wish him every success during his tenure. We are confident that he will rise to the challenges of leading UNCTAD and enabling it to continue to discharge its historic responsibility to millions of our people. We thank the Secretary General for sharing his reflections on the priorities before us which will require commitment by us all. South Africa pledges full support to Dr Kituyi and we hope to continue the close working relationship which we developed with his predecessor, Dr Supachai Panchapakdi, whose dedicated service to UNCTAD is commendable.

President,

I would like to associate my delegation with the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and on behalf of the Africa Group, respectively.

Over the years, this TDB has benefited immensely from the insightful analysis contained in the annual *Trade and Development Reports* and the *Economic Development in Africa Reports*. I therefore wish to express my delegation's gratitude to the Secretariat for all the hard work that they did in the preparation of these reports.

President,

According to the Trade and Development Report 2013, strong expansionary monetary policies in the major developed economies have not succeeded in credit creation and stimulating aggregate demand. The report notes that fiscal austerity and wage compression in many developed countries are further darkening the outlook, not only for the short term, but also for the medium term. This negative state of the economies of many developed countries requires developing countries to review their development and trade policies. For decades, the mainstream economic paradigm was that development is largely achieved through export led growth. As noted in the *Economic Development in Africa Report* of 2011, a realignment whereby the state takes more of an interventionist role in shaping the trajectory of the economy is required. The development state has a unique responsibility to chart out an industrial policy that seeks not only to increase exports, but primarily to improve domestic demand, to create jobs, to improve economies of scale and to ensure that a developing country's industrialisation trajectory is not predicated on export-led growth.

Secondly, the reports put it clearly that a significant realignment of the global economy combined with structural reforms is required now, more than ever before, in order for the global economy to emerge stronger from the economic crisis. Policies pursued after the advent of the crisis have not succeeded in resolving it and in dealing with its root causes. In this regard, reforms relating to the financial sector – the incubator of the crisis – urgently need impetus, a business as usual approach will not work. Empirical evidence suggests that effective regulation and supervision of the

banking sector, combined with adequate banking capitalisation, does contribute towards the prevention of financial crises.

Thirdly Mr President, the report makes the point that the volume of trade in goods expanded by only 5 per cent in 2011 and by less than 2 per cent in 2012, affecting developed, developing and transition economies alike. This underscores the need for the WTO to conclude the Doha Development Round, and to deliver a balanced and fair package at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. The WTO must deliver tangible trade opportunities to the poorest countries according to the mandates agreed to in the Doha and the Hong Kong Declarations.

Allow me, Mr President, to welcome some of the key conclusions of the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2013*. The report highlights the importance of the alternative approaches to regional integration in Africa and introduces into the debate a concept that it refers to as "developmental regionalism" and outlines what are some of its characteristics. We concur with the conclusion of the report that Intra-African trade has enormous potential to create employment and investment and foster growth in Africa, provided the appropriate conditions are created.

Mr President, the ongoing global discourse on the elaboration of the UN development agenda beyond 2015 is a very pertinent issue in view of the approaching deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. My delegation looks forward to a robust discussion on this important matter, including on how we can secure accelerated flow of resources for the attainment of the 2015 targets.

We appreciate the noble ambition to survey an array of topics in the time allocated to this sixtieth session of the TDB. This session will have the enormous task of deliberating and proposing policy options on a range of issues pertinent to our quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

I wish the sixtieth session of the TDB much success in its deliberations.

I thank you.