

**STATEMENT OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARGARIDA IZATA
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ANGOLA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

First Segment of the 67th Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board

Item 2: Annual Report of the Secretary General

Thursday, 2 July

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Federico Villegas

Secretary-General of UNCTAD H.E. Mukhisa Kituyi

Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Madam Isabelle Durant

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group associates itself with the Statement made by Zambia, on behalf of the G77 and China.

The African Group would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General of UNCTAD for his report, comprehensive statement and for his commitment in carrying out UNCTAD's mandate.

Mr. President,

The African group welcomes the efforts undertaken by UNCTAD to support member states at this crucial time and encourages all parties to work constructively to limit the effects of Covid-19 and facilitate the recovery of their economies significantly impacted. It is important that all groups rise to the level of the challenges we face in a spirit of solidarity.

The efforts of UNCTAD in the coming weeks should be largely oriented, not only, on the funding of requests for technical cooperation for LDC programs and basic products, but also on the balance between pillars of research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation.

The progressive erosion of resources observed in recent years is not a route encouraged by the African Group. As much as the Group understands the importance of the existing resources on the lives of the people, steps should be taken to preserve and limit the use of said resources so as to ensure that the next generations may also benefit from them.

Mr. President,

The African group would like to express its appreciation to the various partners and actors who contributed to the achievement of UNCTAD's goals including the sustainability and predictability of the organization's programs and policies and invite them to continue their actions.

In addition, the African group also wants UNCTAD to strengthen its work on basic products, to extend studies to new products, such as bamboo, gum arabic, and others, which contribute substantially to improving the standard of living of the populations, as well as strengthens the economic and social fabric of member states.

The African group requests the cooperation of UNCTAD in order to launch an evaluation study for African countries on the impact of the health crisis and the means to revive the economies of the most affected countries.

To conclude, the African group reiterates its continued support in fulfilling the mandate of UNCTAD.

I Thank you