



Statement by
His Excellency Mr. Salim Baddoura
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon
at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Trade and Development Board

Statement on Item 2 – Annual Report of the Secretary-General
Geneva, 2 to 3 July 2020

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Federico Villegas,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mukhisa Kituyi,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Isabelle Durant,
Excellencies,

Lebanon aligns itself to the statements of the groups to which it belongs.

At the outset we wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive preliminary remarks. UNCTAD since its inception has indeed always played a primordial role in underlining the needs and interests of developing countries in the fields of trade and development.

Although we have come a long way since UNCTAD's inception in 1964, the developing world is struggling now more than ever, with both old and emerging new challenges, accentuated by a growing digital divide, depleted FDIs, ballooning debts, and a globalization that is not living up to the SDGs or the efficient fight against poverty. On top of that we must grapple with the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which we are only beginning to learn about.

Mr. President,

As we approach the 15th Ministerial Conference, it's vital for us to profit from this important event in order to take stock of the new global context in a genuine



spirit of cooperation and a renewed commitment to the 3 pillars of UNCTAD that should be revitalized in order to help us address in an efficient manner, the old and new challenges that are hampering trade and development.

First, we call for all stakeholders to protect and strengthen the research and analysis pillar, which, historically, has been the compass that leads the work of this Conference by giving us the opportunity to learn about the most pressing challenges of the developing world and to formulate the needed policy recommendations. With the emerging economic crisis and recession and their various effects on development, we urge member states to support the secretariat's research capacities and expertise and invite it to focus its studies on the most crucial issues of our times, such as debt issues and the digital economy, among many others.

In addition to that, we look forward to the finalization of the UNCTAD technical cooperation strategy and its implementation to ensure the translation of UNCTAD's work into tangible assistance to developing countries. Our Organization should be provided with the necessary resources to have a meaningful technical assistance activity geared towards flattening the obstacles and harnessing the opportunities.

As for the consensus building pillar, which is the pillar that holds this conference together, we assign great importance to the continued constructive and open dialogue on key development questions of our time, in the aim of building consensus on how to effectively tackle them. We put high hopes that the next conference will constitute a model for multilateralism and help us shape a more fair and just international landscape.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's continued support and commitment to the values and the work of this organization.

I thank you.