

TDB , July 2-3, 2020.

JZ intervention, agenda item 1 (nomination of Chair and Bureau)

- Thank you Chair, I will be delivering this statement on behalf of the JUSCANZ group.

- We would first like to thank Ambassador Gaffey for his work over the last year. Even though it did not turn out as anyone could have expected, he managed to maintain the membership active and engaged, keeping as much momentum as possible as this should have been a Ministerial Conference year. Thank you and we look forward to working with you since you will stay active in the Bureau as Vice-Chair.

- We would also like to welcome Ambassador Villegas, both to Geneva and in his new role as TDB Chair. We stand ready and look forward to work with you in what promises to be a busy year. We would also like to welcome the group of incoming Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur.

- Chair we are pleased to see the intergovernmental work of UNCTAD starting again, and even if this first part of the TDB is taking place under extremely unusual circumstances, we believe that the time is ripe to start the conversation amongst members about the role UNCTAD has played so far and mostly the role it can and should play in addressing the multiple layers of this pandemic, addressing the economic effects and mostly the socio-economic recovery for developing countries and LDCs.

- This conversation has already started in various spaces in the UN system and elsewhere, but we are well placed in this forum to discuss a number of aspects that have been and will continue to be instrumental in mitigating the crisis, such as digital solutions and trade facilitation to keep essential products moving across borders.

- We look forward to the next couple of days to take stock of what has been done so far and reflect on future steps and the role of UNCTAD.

- I thank you