

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY NIGERIA, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
AT THE SEVENTY –SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THE PROGRAM BUDGET
GENEVA, 3 -5 SEPTEMBER 2018

Madam Chair

**Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellences and Distinguished Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like start by joining previous speakers in congratulating you, Madam Chair, on your election to steer the work of this Seventy-Sixth Session of the Working Party. Under your able leadership, we are confident of a successful and fruitful conclusion of the Session. Be assured of our full support.

2. Nigeria Delegation also want to express our appreciation to the Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, Ms. Isabelle Durant, for her opening remarks. We equally want to commend the UNCTAD Secretariat for its organization of this event and the preparation of all the necessary background documents.

3. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of Pakistan and Sudan on behalf of the Group 77& China and African Group respectively.

Madam Chair

4. As we all know, Technical Cooperation is one of the three pillars of UNCTAD. Thus the evaluation of UNCTAD's technical cooperation programme is not only necessary but due. The exercise is an important one for my delegation as a beneficiary of the programmes, especially the ASCYUDA project, EMPRETEC, Investment Policy Review and others. Evaluation will also allow UNCTAD and donors to exchange views on how

to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UNCTAD operations.

Madam Chair,

5. We wish to note, with concern, the dwindling resources available for the execution of the various technical cooperation programmes of UNCTAD. It is now becoming evident that there is a donor fatigue and individual developing countries that are desirous of participating in the technical programmes may now be compelled to source for funding. This is definitely not an ideal situation. In this wise, my delegation would like to call on UNCTAD to explore all available options to secure more funding for the technical cooperation programme as we consider it very critical and the major area where developing countries are actually benefiting, in a practical way, in the activities of UNCTAD.

6. I thank you