

**JUSCANZ Statement**  
**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB), General Debate**  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2018**

The JUSCANZ countries would like to thank Foreign Minister Ulianovschi for serving as TDB president and his dedication to UNCTAD. We also warmly welcome Ambassador Baddoura in his new capacity as TDB president. We stand ready to assist you in the months ahead.

Turning to the high-level segment, we would like to offer several comments regarding the annotated agenda, background documentation, and the discussion that has taken place.

Early in the TDB planning process, JUSCANZ countries expressed concern about the proposed high-level segment and the choice of topics. In particular, we noted that the segment originally called “policy options and actions for stemming illicit financial flows, trade misinvoicing, and financial leakages” was (clearly) outside of UNCTAD’s mandate and we requested that it be changed. In response we were presented a new topic called “plugging financial leakages” which turned out to be a change in title only. The background note and discussion remained unchanged and outside of this organization’s mandate. Frankly, we are disappointed that JUSCANZ’ concerns were not addressed, and rather were ignored.

Ironically, the background note’s suggested policy recommendations, and many of the interventions from the floor, referred to work done by the OECD and G-20 which leads us to our second point. With UN Development System reforms underway, and UNCTAD’s role in the system in question, a wise strategic move would be for UNCTAD to focus on its core areas of work, rather than chase topics and issues it is not mandated to work on.

In the preparations for this TDB, we heard how important it is to make the high-level segment engaging and attractive to high-level participants. And during discussions about revitalizing UNCTAD’s intergovernmental machinery, we also heard many countries express their desire to make UNCTAD’s work more relevant and noticeable in New York. In either case, we would argue that UNCTAD should stay focused on its consensually agreed program of work and build on its strengths – then others will take notice. E-Commerce Week is an excellent

example of this – delegates, governments, and NY will take notice when UNCTAD adds value to a discussion.

We have already mentioned revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery or what's also known as the IGM. This TDB was supposed to mark the start of a revitalized IGM. The secretariat plays an important role in revitalizing the IGM by providing the substantive reports and documents that generate discussions and help build consensus. The unavailability of two flagship reports is an unacceptable way to start a new era of the IGM.

In addition, we are disappointed that translated versions on a number of agenda items were not available with adequate time to review them. Timely document availability is a long-standing issue for this organization and we hope it is one that the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General will take seriously.

We would like to make one final comment on Phase 2 and the IGM revitalization. All member states worked quite constructively and cooperatively. Our group of countries called on member states to be bold, and be open to creative and comprehensive changes. At this very late point in the TDB, we acknowledge that all countries are not comfortable with that level of ambition. That being said, there is positive news to report. We have over reached tentative agreement on over 20 paragraphs that demonstrates both the spirit of cooperation that exists between delegates, and that many commonalities exist between all UNCTAD member states. We look forward to presenting that outcome under agenda item 11.

Thank you for your kind attention.