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*Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies
among the three pillars*

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

For your consideration of this item, you have before you advance unedited copies of the 2017 DIAE Impact and Results Report prepared by the Secretariat. This Report presents our main achievements and delivery of mandates received from member States in the area of investment and enterprise for sustainable development. It focuses on the implementation of Results-Based Management by the Division, showing how its principles are consistently applied in our daily work to produce concrete and sustainable development impact in beneficiary countries. As for previous editions, it therefore includes a comprehensive description of main results in each of the Division's core activities and a transparent assessment of their relevance, quality, efficiency and impact. As you may be aware, this approach has been hailed by independent experts, including during the recent OIOS audit of UNCTAD's technical cooperation projects in the area of investment and enterprise. This 2017 Impact and Result Report is complemented by advance unedited copies of our brochure on "Investment and enterprise: A compact to deliver the SDGs", which demonstrates how our work supports member States in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under 2030 Development Agenda.

Implementing Maafikiano: a record number of deliverables

Allow me to start by outlining some quantifiable results, as they are represented in the Report before you. Throughout 2016, the Division on Investment and Enterprise prepared and issued 61 analytical publications, reports and research notes. The main results and findings of these publications were largely disseminated using traditional channels such as press releases, seminars, and also more innovative and modern outlets such as our World Investment Network, which now includes over 22,000 references, as well as social media, including twitter. As a result, the World Investment Report 2016 recorded over 250,000 downloads in 202 countries and territories as of mid 2017 - the highest number among all UNCTAD flagship publications. The Report was also cited over 4,000 times during 2016 in academic papers; and elicited over 1,800 press articles and press reports, which provide an indication of the relevance of its theme and of its quality.

During the same period, we carried out 75 advisory services, training courses and projects implemented in some 50 client countries. Over 4,000 participants benefited from 50 training courses and seminars, demonstrating enhanced efficiency in the delivery of our training services. Our capacity-building activities also included the maintenance and development of some 50 gateways and 10 databases that serve as daily reference points for policy and decision-makers, researchers, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. This is evidenced, for instance, by the fact that UNCTAD's FDI databases were the most visited on the UNCTADstat online portal in 2016, accounting for 12 per cent of all UNCTAD page views.

We also organized and/or co-organized a substantial number of events to advance consensus on investment and enterprise development issues. Indeed, 2016 highlights included the successful contributions to the UNCTAD14 Ministerial Conference and the 2016 World Investment Forum, which gathered over 3,000 registered participants in a discussion on SDG challenges through the lens of investment and enterprise.

This quantitative breakdown illustrates the significance of progress accomplished towards the implementation of the mandates received in Nairobi. As you will recall, the Nairobi Azimio asked UNCTAD to “further expand its activities for promoting and facilitating investment and enterprise development”. Overall, 54 paragraphs of the Maafikiano directly or indirectly relate to the work programme in investment and enterprise. They broadly relate to the following work streams:

Research, policy analysis, statistics and data on FDI and the activities of TNCs: This mostly relate to the paragraphs 38(g), 76(z), and 100 (c) of the Maafkiano. Beyond the World Investment Report a total of 60 outputs have been delivered since the Nairobi Conference, which cover all three pillars of UNCTAD work. They encompass theoretical analysis through the four issues of the TNC Journal; information for decision-making such as the investment trends monitors and the mega-grouping investment facts and figures; specialized databases such as the newly-launched bilateral and sectoral and industrial database; advisory support to regional groupings such as the ASEAN and the COMESA investment reports; workshops in the area of FDI statistics and the exchange of best practice and consensus-building on WIR themes.

55 outputs have been delivered since the Conference on investment policies, responding to paragraphs 38 (p), 55(y), 76 (bb), and 76 (o) of the Nairobi Maafikiano. These included the release of five issues of the investment policy monitor – a key instrument for policy and decision makers. It also included the finalization and presentation of the IPRs of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, The Gambia and South East Europe, as well as the publication of implementation reports for Benin, Botswana, the Dominican Republic and Mauritius. Advisory services were also provided to a dozen of countries, which generated practical outcomes such as a draft PPP law for Mali or a draft investment code for Benin. We also innovated by developing the first ever global database on investment laws.

In the area of International Investment Agreements, and responding to paragraphs 38(l), 55(h) and 100(i) of the Maafikiano, no less than 57 outputs were completed. In line with the provisions of paragraph 91 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, UNCTAD continued to provide comprehensive backstopping of consensus-building efforts in the area. To guide member States, DIAE prepared several IIAs issues notes on the latest investor-State Dispute Settlement and IIAs reform developments. We also provide policy makers with the world’s most comprehensive publicly available databases on ISDS cases and IIAs. Assistance provided also included IIA country reviews, IIA model commentaries and other advisory work at the request of individual countries and several regional groupings.

Another important work stream relates to investment promotion and facilitation. It responds to paragraphs 55(q), 55(r), and 76(i) of the Maafikiano. UNCTAD’s investment promotion programme centered efforts on the development of solid proposal aimed at promoting investment in SDG-related sectors. It helped countries with the preparation of bankable SDG projects.

Further SDG-related support was provided through its green FDI portal and its work on urban development, in cooperation with UN Habitat. It also focused on the development of LDCs’ ability to promote investment and build productive capacity. Lastly the programme continued to assist member States through the provision of advisory services and the organization of workshops and seminars to the benefit of investment promotion practitioners and diplomats from 62 countries.

Business Facilitation is one area of our work with the most impressive achievements since the Conference. The scope of the eRegulation and eRegistration system has been extended with an additional nine field projects. In addition, we developed and are pilot-testing in three different locations a product-extension of eRegulations, the Trade Portal – a new facilitation tool specializing on trade procedures. It is also one of the work areas where impact has been the greatest, as the time and cost related to the simplification of procedures have decreased exponentially in parallel with the development of the ePortals.

Responsible investment is a new work area that emanates from the Conference. Several work streams answer to paragraphs 55 (p) and 76 (n) of the Maafikiano. Under the Sustainable Stock Exchange initiative, breakthrough research was published on green finance. 61 exchanges from 58 countries representing more than 70 per cent of the listed equity market are now part of the venture. Under the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment programme, six knowledge notes were prepared to allow for the dissemination of investment best practice seeking to support SDGs targets in the agricultural sector. In the area of intellectual property for development, major progress was made towards facilitating investment towards the promotion of local pharmaceutical production.

DIAE's work on enterprise development answers several Maafikiano mandates including the paragraphs 38 (c), 76 (bb), 76 (w), 76 (o) and 100 (i). In this area and responding to the request made to develop and further disseminate UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, we prepared a framework for the youth and worked on EPF extensions focused on gender and migrants. The EPF is now being implemented successfully in over 10 countries. Meanwhile, we continued to roll out the Empretec programme with new centres opened in Cameroon, Malaysia, Oman and The Gambia. A total of 39 centres are now in operation.

In the area of accounting and corporate reporting, and responding to paragraphs 65 (l) and 82 (y), the programme advanced its work on corporate reporting standards on environmental, social and governance, while promoting best practice in accounting, including through the implementation of the Accounting Development Tool.

This impact could not have been achieved without two factors:

The first is the systematic application of results-based management principles and practice (RBM++), consistently held up as a best-practice approach by external evaluations. For instance, the most recent OIOS audit of the Division noted that the Division had “applied RBM practice across all projects”, “complied with donor requirements” and followed “adequate strategic planning processes”;

The second element underpinning our impact is the comprehensive set of policy frameworks developed by the Division and which effectively anchor and guide all its interventions. These policy frameworks are the result of refined interaction between the three pillars of work, with the outcome of policy research and analysis crafted through expert deliberations at the intergovernmental level.

This is then further refined based on feedback from the field. For this reason, our policy frameworks have received global recognition and now shape policy making at all levels, effectively fulfilling a critical and undisputed function in global investment and enterprise development policy making.

Maximizing synergies for supporting commitments towards the SDGs

In efforts on implementing the Maafikiano mandate, we have undertaken significant steps to foster the contributions of the programme to Agenda 2030. This is detailed in our SDG-dedicated *Compact to deliver the SDGs*. I will limit myself to highlight key targets and goals whose realization is supported by our work as focal point in the United Nations System for all matters related to private investment:

- End poverty - UNCTAD's investment policy reviews and its programme on responsible investment support member States achieving **SDG 1 target 1b** to: "Create sound frameworks at national, regional, international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions". UNCTAD's investment policy reviews and its programme on responsible investment;
- Quality education – UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and Empretec Programme support member States achieving **SDG 4 indicator 4**: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;
- Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment – UNCTAD's enterprise development and business facilitation programmes support member States' efforts towards achieving **SDG 8 target 3**: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services;
- Reduced inequalities – UNCTAD through its research work on investment for development, in particular the World Investment Report, the Investment Policy Review programme and the work on investment promotion plays a unique role in the UN System as it helps member States achieving **SDG 10 target b** to: Encourage ODA and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular LDCs, African countries, SIDS, and LLDCs, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.
- **SDG 12** on responsible consumption and production – in particular **target 6** to « Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle », through the work of ISAR and of the programme on Responsible Investment and its Sustainable Stock Exchange initiative;
- **SDG 17** on the Global partnership for sustainable development - UNCTAD's work on Investment promotion and facilitation and the i-Guides support **target 5** to "Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries", while the programme on International Investment Agreements supports **target 15** « Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and target 17 "Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development » through our work on International Investment Agreements.

Investment and Enterprise development will be critical if the international community is to successfully achieve the 2030 Development Agenda. In Nairobi, you, representatives of Member States, decided that the World Investment Forum would play a very specific role in this endeavor. I have great pleasure to announce that the Division on Investment and Enterprise has started preparations for the WIF 2018, which will take place here, in the Palais des Nations, from 22 to 26 October next year. I look forward to your participation and support in making this 2018 Forum another milestone on the road to 2030.

This concludes my presentation this morning. I thank you and am available to answer your questions.