

Statement by the Russian Federation
at the 70th executive session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD
Geneva, 3-5 February 2021

Agenda item 2 - The Least Developed Countries Report 2020: Productive Capacities for
the New Decade

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Director of Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes,

Dear colleagues!

We thank the UNCTAD Secretariat for preparing the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report for 2020. We highly appreciate the expert and analytical work of UNCTAD on LDCs and are convinced that the appropriate work of the Organization is in demand by this group of states.

We note the relevance of the report in terms of analysing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socio-economic situation in LDCs and a comprehensive assessment of the achievement of the goals of the Istanbul Program of Action.

For our part, we have repeatedly expressed our support for UNCTAD's position on the priority of building productive capacities in support of LDCs, and we note with satisfaction that the 2020 Report is dedicated to this topic. We share the thesis that increasing production capacity is essential to countering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery in LDCs.

We welcome the Productive Capacity Index developed by UNCTAD and look forward to its active practical use in addressing the structural problems of LDCs, including in the framework of technical assistance projects aimed at reducing dependence on the primary commodity export.

Russia has been a responsible and reliable donor to LDCs for decades. Russian assistance is provided both on a bilateral basis and through the channels of UN organizations. Our activities in this field are fully in line with fundamental humanitarian principles.

The Russian Federation is committed to the implementation of the Agenda-2030 and stands ready to engage constructively with all interested partners to develop effective and realistic measures for the sustainable development of LDCs.