

**Statement by the Russian Federation on behalf of the EAEU Group
at the 70th executive session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD**

Geneva, 3-5 February 2021

Agenda item 4 - Report of the Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects
of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for
the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Dear colleagues!

We thank the Secretariat for the informative report on the outcome of the 8th UN Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. We note the impeccable preparation and organization of this important international event in the difficult conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For our regional group, the problem of antitrust regulation and strengthening UNCTAD's capacity in this area is of paramount importance.

Among the most significant results of the Conference for us, we will highlight the adoption of decisions on two issues within the framework of the final resolution, on which we, together with our partners in the EAEU Group, have consistently worked over the past few years in constructive cooperation with all interested countries.

This is the approval by the Conference of the Guidelines and Procedures in accordance with Section F (International Cooperation) of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. We believe that this toolkit will help bring international cooperation between anti-monopoly authorities to a qualitatively new level.

We believe that the most important results of the Conference are the endorsement of the problem of combating cross-border cartels as one of the priority topic of UNCTAD's antitrust activities for the next five years, as well as the decision to set up a special working group on that matter.

We proceed from the assumption that the Working Group will become an effective platform for conducting fundamental research on the problems of cross-border cartels, studying the existing mechanisms for countering cross-border cartels, and will contribute to the generalization and convergence of national practices in this area.

We are pleased to note that more than 35 countries (including all member countries of our regional group) have already confirmed their participation in the Working Group.

We express our gratitude to all countries that supported these initiatives during the 8th Conference, we call on all interested partners to actively join in the work of the newly created group.

We note the consistently high level of cooperation with the competition branch of the UNCTAD secretariat. We hope that the rich professional and managerial experience of the UNCTAD antitrust team will become an important factor of the successful functioning of the Working Group on Cross-Border Cartels.