

STATEMENT BY
H.E. DR ATHALIAH LESIBA MOLOKOMME
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
AT THE SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 1: ITEM 1: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Madame President, Ambassador Maimuna Kibenga TARISHI
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Madam Isabelle DURANT
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

I have the honor to deliver this brief statement on behalf of the African Group. I take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming President of the Trade and Development Board, HE Ambassador Maimuna Kibenga TARISHI of Tanzania, the Vice President and Members of the Advisory Body on their appointments.

It is a particular pleasure for me to see the Board and the meeting being chaired by a woman colleague, and one from our African region, reflecting the progress we are making towards ensuring gender balance in these important leadership roles. The appointment of a woman Secretary General to the helm of our organisation, taking over from Acting SG Isabelle Durrant, another woman, is further proof of this.

I thank Acting SG Ms Isabelle Durrant for her excellent stewardship of UNCTAD in an acting capacity.

Madame President,

On behalf of the Botswana delegation and on behalf of the African Group, I reaffirm our commitment to working with you and your team as you deliver on this very important assignment.

I also take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Ambassador Federico Villegas for spearheading the work of the TDB in the midst of the covid 19 pandemic. We are deeply grateful for your leadership and pledge the same support and commitment to the incoming President, Ambassador Tarishi.

I thank you Madame President.