

**Statement by the Delegation of Mexico,
Coordinator of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
at the 83rd Session of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Performance**

Geneva, 7 – 9 February 2022

Chair of the Eighty-third Session of the Working Party, Mr. Martin Zbinden (Switzerland),
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,
Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Natee Vichitsorasatra (Thailand),
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mister Chair, it is an honour for Mexico to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group.

1. GRULAC would like to congratulate you for your appointment and the appointment of the Vice-chair-cum rapporteur, you can count on the Group's support and cooperation to achieve a successful meeting and outcome of this session of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Performance.
2. GRULAC acknowledges the hard work of the Secretariat in organizing this meeting and preparing the relevant documents.
3. The delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean welcome the vision of Madame Grynspan to revitalize the three pillars of work, across all divisions of UNCTAD, in order to support member States in a post pandemic reality and a time of crucial importance for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda goals and targets in the near future.
4. We also agree that UNCTAD has a special place in the UN System and that with better coordination with relevant stake holders, the Bridgetown Covenant can be implemented more efficiently, including on priority areas for our development such as gender, women's economic empowerment and climate change. Madame Grynspan, please count on your region to support on this collective effort.
5. Regarding the preparation of the programme plan for 2023, GRULAC notes with satisfaction the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and welcomes its recommendations on programme design, delivery and policy directives; in particular the strengthening of gender mainstreaming under relevant areas of work in UNCTAD and the recommendation to reinforce and systematize relationships with the United Nations Country Teams and key stakeholders with national presence in order to foster cooperation and ensure solid outcomes in national level projects.
7. Regarding the overall orientation for 2023, GRULAC supports the pledge made in the Bridgetown Covenant to secure an inclusive global recovery from the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are still facing important obstacles in the region. Equal access to vaccines, for example, is a major concern for our governments, apart from other important obstacles like the disruption of trade, finance, increasing debt and rising inflation that puts the so awaited recovery phase into peril.
8. In this context, novel approaches and best practices to implement mandates will be of the highest importance. GRULAC will continue to count on the reliable statistical information and indicators produced by UNCTAD and also on the cross-cutting service on SDG's progress to support our national progress data and controls.

9. GRULAC welcomes a results-based management approach across the organization and every effort to ensure efficiency in the use of resources, transparency and accountability. The region supports the continuous implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and underlines the importance of ensuring a balanced regional representation in the staff of UNCTAD.

10. The Working Party is a strategic forum to host informed and realistic discussions on the implementation of UNCTAD mandates and programs and the technical assistance strategy; in this sense, GRULAC would like to request to have a preparation session in advance of the Working Party sessions in order to have an informal dialogue with the Secretariat, based on the documents to be discussed in the formal session, so every delegation of the region have the opportunity to interact and reflect on the information, on an equal basis, and from a regional and a national perspective.

11. The GRULAC region would like to reiterate the full support of its members to you Mr. Chair and Mr. Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, and to extend again our welcome to the vision of Madame Grynspan on the fore coming plans to better equip UNCTAD to achieve its high mandate.

12. Finally, the members of GRULAC who are part of the Group of 77 and China associate itself with the statement made by the Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.