



STATEMENT BY KENYA AT THE 73<sup>RD</sup> EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 13<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

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**Item 3 – The Least Developed Countries Report 2022: The Low-Carbon Transition and its Daunting Implications for Structural Implications**

**President of the Trade and Development Board, Amb. Bahtijors Hasans of Latvia,  
Secretary General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Kenya aligns with the statement delivered by Tanzania on behalf of G77 and China

At the outset, Kenya would like to commend UNCTAD Secretariat, particularly, the Division on Africa, LDCs and special programmes under the robust leadership of Mr. Paul Akiwumi for ***The Least Developed Countries Report 2022*** dubbed, ***“the low-carbon transition and its daunting implications for structural transformation”***. Indeed the report provides an excellent analysis of the complex circumstances that the Least Developed countries are currently faced with, in their quest towards achieving national development goals as well as suggests possible strategies for LDCs to navigate out of their current situation that remains dire.

We are all cognizant of the current state of the global economy which is characterized by multiple, interconnected and unprecedented crises ranging from the lingering Covid-19 crisis, accelerating climate emergency with its significant effects, the war in Ukraine, unsustainable debt, rising food and energy prices, rapid increase in interest rates and inflationary pressures among others. The world economy is slowing down with increased cost of living that is hurting populations.

With this dire situation, developing countries, particularly, LDCs are the ones being hit the hardest because of their structural weaknesses that have rendered them more vulnerable to these multiple shocks.

**The Least Developed Countries Report 2022** is timely as it confirms the reality on the ground in LDCs. The report highlights the structural challenges faced by LDCs including those relating to low-carbon development and structural transformation. Further, the report plays a vital role in exploring the nexus between climate change adaptation and sustainable development, highlighting potential win-win opportunities and potential trade-offs which require international support to LDCs.

## Mr. President

It is clear from the report that LDCs have contributed minimally to greenhouse gas emission yet they belong to the category of countries that are suffering the most from the significant negative effects of climate change. It is also important to note that in spite of these, LDCs have set ambitious emission-reduction targets and have aligned and committed to the climate-resilient development pathways and delivery on net-zero emissions by 2050. Therefore, for LDCs to balance between climate-resilient development model and pursuit for their national economic development, support from the international community is needed now more than ever.

We agree with the report that the international support for LDCs to achieve green structural transformation, is indispensable and should take the form of supporting the development of appropriate policies and strategies both at national and international levels as well as enhanced support in the areas of finance, technology and capacity building.

We strongly believe in the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective capabilities as espoused in the UNFCCC and Paris agreement and reiterate that it should be the basis against which **'a just energy transition'** is premised. If we implement this principle to the latter, we shall immensely shorten the timelines for achieving the carbon emission reduction targets.

## Mr. President

International trade remains an important channel for LDCs to achieve their national development goals yet they remain extremely vulnerable to trade shocks. In this regard, any trade policy measure by trading partners that is not sensitive to the trading needs of developing countries, particularly, LDCs, should be reconsidered as it can have significant negative impact on their trade and development prospects and subsequently, on their structural transformation efforts.

To keep developing countries particularly LDCs, apprised on the implications of such trade measures vis-à-vis their low-carbon transition trajectory, we call upon UNCTAD to continue with its analytical work in this area for informed multilateral discourse and subsequently, built consensus towards a fair and meaningful trade for all.

To conclude, we would like to reiterate that the findings and recommendations in the Least Developed Countries Report 2022 are not new to most of us if not all of us and they resonate fully with the commitments documented in landmark agreements such as UNFCCC and Paris Agreement as well as the Bridgetown covenant and the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs. What is urgently needed now more than ever is implementation of these outcomes. Therefore, UNCTAD in collaboration with development partners and the international community at large, should make this happen for developing countries especially LDCs so that no one is left behind.

**I thank you**