

70th Session of the Trade and Development Board 2023

National Statement Germany

Minister-Counsellor Karin Goebel

General Debate (Item 3)

Mister President, Secretary-General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

Germany aligns itself with the statement held on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Our thanks goes to the outgoing President, Ambassador Hasans, and we would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Hashmi, for your election as President of the 70th session of the Trade and Development Board. We are glad to serve as Bureau member for this session and thank you for the trust placed in us.

Let me at the outset express our appreciation for your outstanding work, Secretary-General Grynspan, at the helm of UNCTAD. We have taken good note of your presentation. Our particular thanks goes to you for your continuing engagement on the Black Sea Grain Initiative, as leader of the UN Task Team of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance. As Champion of the group, Germany is committed to fighting acute hunger crises and to continue engaging in food security initiatives.

I would like to focus on three issues in my statement:

First, on decarbonisation opportunities and challenges in the Blue Economy:

[Maritime Transport]: Maritime transport is at the forefront of the climate change challenge. We need to strengthen global efforts to achieve GHG life-cycle zero emissions from international shipping by 2050 at the latest. We commit to work for the development and adoption of effective mid-term measures by 2025.

Conducting comprehensive impact assessments on States before the adoption and implementation of IMO measures to reduce GHG is an example of good practice in regulatory governance. UNCTAD's support will help anticipate and understand the potential impacts and can help ensure that the IMO measures achieve their set goals

while, at the same time, taking into account the need for a just and equitable transition.

[Maritime Tourism]: Following the pandemic-related decline in cruise tourism, cruises are currently recovering much faster than expected. Technological solutions for a clean and green cruise business are still rare. As governments we should support the development of technologies and innovation in the field of shoreside power, e-fuels and waste water treatment, to reduce technology costs and the CO₂-footprint of maritime tourism significantly.

[Sustainable Fisheries]: Contributing to sustainable fisheries and accelerating the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector are high priorities for Germany. Reducing dependency on fossil fuel reduces CO₂ emissions and operation costs for the fishermen in the long run. Developing affordable propulsion technologies based on renewable energies and adapted to the operational needs of the fishing sector as well as increasing energy efficiency of fishing operations should be the main focus. Developing countries would also benefit from such technologies.

[Ocean Energy]: Discussions about Blue Economy must always integrate offshore renewable energy potential that is key for decarbonization onshore as well. Germany has massively increased its offshore deployment targets: at least 30 GW by 2030, 40 GW by 2035 and 70 GW by 2045. Currently, we have an installed offshore wind capacity of around 8 GW. This year, we will tender additional 8.8 GW in the North and Baltic Sea. Due to the high demand of renewable energy and green hydrogen, Germany is strongly collaborating with other countries bordering the North and Baltic Sea.

Let me come to my second point, **climate action**.

We welcome an increased focus of UNCTAD on climate considerations across its activities, as reflected also in this year's Technology and Innovation Report. We have all been experiencing, in different forms and intensities, the consequences of the climate crisis: droughts and floods that lead to crop failures, storms, wild fires and heat waves. The IPCC Report issued in March made clear: We are not doing enough. We need to correct course in order to get onto the 1.5 degree pathway.

The first Global Stocktake at this year's COP28 will be an important opportunity to take decisive steps – for concrete and clear action that will get us away from fossil

fuels and dramatically accelerate the deployment of renewables. Germany is advocating for a global target for the expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

At the same time, we must show solidarity with the most vulnerable countries that are hardest hit by the climate crisis. The decision taken at COP27 to establish new loss and damage funding arrangements, including a fund, was a historic success for greater climate justice and a strong signal of solidarity with the most vulnerable. Germany advocates the speedy, effective implementation of this decision. It is important that the funding arrangements and the fund focus on the most vulnerable and build on a broad contributors' base. We must also support the most vulnerable countries to adapt to the impact of the climate crises. The Global Shield against Climate Risks launched by the G7 and the Vulnerable Group of Twenty is an example.

Allow me to come to my third and final point: Germany's cooperation with UNCTAD.

Germany highly values its cooperation with UNCTAD in the field of trade and development. Over the past years, we have been supporting UNCTAD's work in a number of areas, such as on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), E-Commerce and Digital Economy, and on the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS). Coming back to climate action, in the framework of its International Climate Initiative Germany is in a dialogue with UNCTAD on supporting developing countries to improve climate and sustainability reporting standards, as global standards are a prerequisite for the mobilization of the private capital needed for the transformation of economies in line with the Paris Agreement and the 1.5° goal.

To sum up, we believe trade, with its enormous opportunities for wealth creation and distribution, is one of the most important tools to address the multiplicity of crises and to reach the 2030 Agenda. We have to make this system work for the benefit of all—taking into account social and economic equality, the protection of the environment and the need for economic security.