

72nd Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board, 24-28 November 2025

National Statement Germany

Minister-Counsellor Karin Goebel

Agenda Item 2: General Debate

Dear 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 go to the able President, Ambassador Bekkers, for his excellent work and his guidance over the past year and especially his contribution in making UNCTAD XVI a success.

I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Sanchez-Fung, for your election as President of the 72nd session of the Trade and Development Board - as well as all the newly elected Vice-Presidents.

That UNCTAD Member States, from South to North, could come to a consensus on UNCTAD's work programme for the next four years – the Geneva Consensus - in times of global uncertainties, geoeconomic challenges and heightened geopolitical tensions, shows that multilateralism works. We reaffirmed our collective support for a rules-based open, transparent and equitable multilateral trading system.

I would like to thank Secretary-General Grynspan for her strong leadership: She has made this conference a conference of renewal from the outset. A great thanks also goes to all of UNCTAD's staff and to Switzerland as our phantastic host and chair and, not least, to all delegates that have made this successful outcome possible.

The historically high level of attendance, not only from Member States but also from stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector, underlined the relevance of UNCTAD as a forum to discuss key issues of trade and development.

Germany was happy to make contributions to a Panel on Investment Facilitation – we see a key role for UNCTAD as trade and investment facilitator – and to the Digital for Development Forum with a focus on strengthening the rights, representation and capacities of women to close the digital gender gap and unleash potential for growth.

Germany has been engaged in cooperation with UNCTAD, as one of its major bilateral donors over the past couple of years, by providing voluntary contributions to its major Technical Cooperation Programs: ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data), DMFAS (Debt Management Facility), and UNCTAD's support for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We are also supporting UNCTAD through currently three JPOs in different areas of the organisation.

UNCTAD is a key actor if we want to seize the enormous opportunities that trade offers for wealth creation and distribution. We must make the best use of this important multilateral organisation to accelerate progress in achieving the sustainable development goals and to make the system work for the benefit of all.

The Geneva Consensus creates a solid basis for our work over the next four years which will unfold in the context of the UN80 reform aimed at ensuring that the UN remains resilient and functional and also efficient and fit for purpose in today's world. Germany is ready to continue to play an active part in UNCTAD in the years ahead.

Thank you.