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Speaker: Chad on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

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**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
G E N E V A**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Malloum Bamanga Abbas
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China in Geneva
at the 28th Special Session of the Trade and Development Board
17 June 2014**

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Mr. Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. It is my pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the Group of 77 and China which, together with UNCTAD, celebrates this week its golden jubilee. This is no accident of history or coincidence of fate, but reflective of the reality that the two institutions are twin siblings born of the same parents and dedicated to the same cause: to bring about a just and fair global economic system to allow for the full fulfillment of human potential.
2. In our half century of existence, both UNCTAD and the Group of 77 have stood for the principled reform of the global economic system to place development at the center, and consequently to harness trade as an engine for development.
3. From their very inception, therefore, UNCTAD and the Group of 77 were of a transformative nature and of an activist character. They were not only conceived as engines of change, but of advocates of justice and fairness in global economics. From pushing for a true level playing field for the integration of the weakest countries into world trade, UNCTAD and the G77 have been providing continuous support to the Palestinian people to overcome the economic legacy of the military occupation, and to laying a firm foundation for a truly free and independent Palestinian State.
4. In this effort, fundamental reforms of global economic governance remain a serious concern. While no one disputes the fundamental responsibility of each state for its own development and while we all agree on the importance of a firm and good foundation for national governance, the enabling global environment has consistently remained an impediment for the full realization of our development aspirations. Indeed in the absence of good governance at the global level, or adequate policy space for developing countries, realizing true development will continue to remain a major challenge.

5. This is a challenge which we will continue to face. Fortunately, we have before us an unusual and historic alignment of forces and processes that presents us with an excellent opportunity to finally succeed. With the articulation of the post-2015 development agenda, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and UNCTAD XIV, we have a trinity of events that affords us the opportunity to tackle the three major fronts of the development challenge.
6. Through the post-2015 development agenda, we have an excellent opportunity to truly address the economic fundamentals of development and build upon the important momentum and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals. The third International Conference on Financing for Development is an opportunity to address the global governance gaps and weaknesses. And UNCTAD XIV presents us with the opportunity to not only address the trade dimension of development, but also the interconnectedness of the other important facets for development, thus also affording us the opportunity to address implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in a holistic and integrated manner.
7. Seizing this opportunity, and maximizing the opportunities inherent in the processes and their inherent inter-relationships, would be consistent with our objective of a strong UNCTAD for the next 50 years as well as turning UNCTAD's ideas into action.
8. Clearly this will not be easy. In recent years there have been efforts to weaken UNCTAD's contribution to the broader discourse on development. And related efforts have been undertaken to weaken and minimize UNCTAD's consensus-building machinery. Yet this perhaps is not the most enlightened approach. In the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis and its impact on all countries, developed and developing, perhaps there could be an emerging recognition that UNCTAD's value is for all nations. Perhaps now we can truly recognize that when we say "Prosperity for All" we truly mean all of humanity.
9. Recognizing, accepting and indeed embracing the human dimension may be the key to UNCTAD's future. We echo the call of the President of the Conference for a new culture of diplomacy and of multilateral economic relations built not on confrontation, but on a shared future for humanity. Sadly this is easier said than done. There is much history to overcome, and much confidence to be built.
10. Perhaps this will be the legacy of this celebration - that we have embarked on a new effort to revitalize UNCTAD, and that it will make the contributions that our predecessors intended. For the Group of 77 and China, this 50th anniversary celebration of UNCTAD is not just the commemoration of an important and historic event. We are reclaiming our organization; we are rededicating ourselves to an UNCTAD that is transformative in impact; and we are reaffirming the great and soaring ambitions upon which UNCTAD is built.
11. I would therefore like to close by quoting from the declaration that gave birth to the Group of 77: "The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development marks the beginning of a new era in the evolution of international co-operation in the field of trade

and development. Such co-operation must serve as a decisive instrument for ending the division of the world into areas of affluence and intolerable poverty. This task is the outstanding challenge of our times. The injustice and neglect of centuries need to be redressed. The developing countries are united in their resolve to continue to quest for such redress and look to the entire international community for understanding and support in this endeavour." Perhaps today we can go beyond this declaration, and call on the united resolve of all humanity to realize the future that we all aspire for.

Thank you Mr. President.