



4 September 2017

Statement by H.E. Dr. James Alex Msekela
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania,
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China
at the Seventy –Fifth Session of the Working Party on the Strategic
Framework and the Programme Budget
Geneva, 4 -6 September 2017

Chair,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chair,

1. At the outset allow me to congratulate you Ms. Isabelle Durantl on behalf of the Group of 77 and China for your appointment as Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD. Please be assured of our full support and cooperation. The G77 and China also wish to warmly congratulate the Chair on your election, we are confident that you will steer the efforts of this Working Party to a productive outcome.

Chair,

2. This 75th session of the Working Party provides a good opportunity to review UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in 2016 and discuss concrete measures to enhance the effectiveness of the technical cooperation carried out by UNCTAD. This session also provides an opportunity to exchange views between various stakeholders and allows for a better understanding between donors and beneficiaries.

Chair,

3. **The G77 & China** would like to express its appreciation to the UNCTAD secretariat for the preparation of comprehensive background documents for the Working Party session. These documents will be useful to our discussions as it includes an overview of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in 2016 and their financing, statistics tables and detailed description of projects implemented in 2016.

Chair,

4. It is pleasing to note that, in 2016, funding from developing countries amounted to \$19.9 million, accounting for 50% of trust fund resources received by UNCTAD. This increase has contributed significantly to enhance technical cooperation funding to UNCTAD trust fund that has rebounded to 40.1 million in 2016, an increase of 16%. In particular, since 2014, the funding from developing and transition countries has maintained its upward trend, making 2016 another year of new record.

Chair,

5. We note with grave concern on the downward trend of contributions from developed countries which totaled \$9.7 million, less than half of the developing country funding. It is the Group's view that an adequately resourced UNCTAD is crucial to the effective implementation of the goals we set in Nairobi and ensuring that UNCTAD plays its role in advancing our collective commitments under the SDGs. We therefore encourage our Partners to increase and sustain the support to UNCTAD. We also wish to re-iterate the Secretary General's call for a more flexible and less earmarked multi-year contributions to UNCTAD in a sustained and predictable manner.

Chair,

6. The Group appreciates UNCTAD's efforts to strengthen the functioning of technical cooperation, in particular by piloting the minimum results-based management requirements for technical cooperation, upgrading the request database, consolidating technical cooperation activities through the UNCTAD Toolbox and fostering interdivisional and inter-agency cooperation. We welcome and support its plans to intensify efforts to mobilize resources in the coming years through diversification of its funding base and exploring innovative ways of funds mobilization, enhancing the governance of technical cooperation to make it more efficient, transparent and accountable; and increasing multi-level collaboration and coordination.
7. The G77 and China wish to specifically commend the UNCTAD Secretariat for its efforts to improve the online database of formal request for UNCTAD technical cooperation. We encourage the secretariat to continue to cooperate with Member States to ensure that accurate information is captured in the database. We are hopeful that these database will assist in the mobilization of much needed resources to boost the delivery of services by the Organisation.

Chair,

8. We have taken note of the Secretary General's report that provides an overview of the external evaluations of UNCTAD programmes and projects completed between April 2016 and April 2017 and the lessons learnt and welcome the evaluation plan for the period 2018-2020.

9. The G77 and China notes with appreciation the findings of the external evaluation team with regard to the quality, relevance and effectiveness of the capacity-building, policy advice and research in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI), including activities in support of the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the STI policy reviews and the programmes related to e-commerce and the digital economy. We encourage the secretariat to leverage on the good practices identified by the evaluation. We invite the secretariat to consider ways and means to ensure the implementation of the recommendation of the evaluation team, such as those regarding the elaboration of fund-raising plans, enhancing the sustainability of programmatic interventions and the increased use of regional approaches.

Chair,

10. Given the fact that most international trade is sea-borne, the Group encourages UNCTAD to continue its important work in the field of its TrainForTrade Port Management Programme (PMP), which made significant impact on developing and least developed countries in increasing their flow of trade and contributing to the general efforts on reducing the cost of passage of goods in ports and therefore facilitating trade as a contribution to the Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement. Moreover, UNCTAD should pursue its assistance to member states in developing comparable indicators of measurements on port operations to allow consistent benchmarking for its stakeholders to make informed choices and spur ports to seek new ways to improve their performance.

Chair,

11. In the area of investment and enterprise for development, the Group of 77 and China wish to recognize the ongoing efforts of the UNCTAD Secretariat in the delivery of a comprehensive array of initiatives and programmes in support of sustainable development. We note especially the Secretariat's production of policy research as well as technical assistance that have benefited members of our Group. The Group acknowledges the development of core frameworks such as the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF), the Action Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation and commend the role of these frameworks in guiding global policymaking efforts on Investment.

Chair,

12. The G77 and China also reiterates its interest to carry out specific activities for the effective implementation of the mandate of paragraph

38 r) on the impact of non-tariff barriers and development as outlined in the Nairobi Maafikiano.

13. In closing, the group reiterates its appreciation for the support provided to UNCTAD by various contributors and partners and calls for enhanced support to the Organisation to ensure that it is capable of fulfilling its mandate as outlined in the Nairobi Maafikiano and the SDGs to achieve, by 2030, the world we want, one that ensures dignity for all, prosperity for all and a sustainable planet for all.

I thank you.