



Mission Permanente
de la République d'Angola
Genève

**Statement by
Her Excellency Mrs. Margarida Izata
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola
on Behalf of the African Group
at the Third Segment of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Trade and
Development Board**

**Item 3 - Actions carried out and/or planned by UNCTAD to support States in the
recovery of their trade and industries after overcoming the pandemic**

Geneva, 28 September – 2 October 2020
Palais des Nations, Room XVII

President of the Trade and Development Board, **Ambassador Federico Villegas**,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. **Mukhisa Kituyi**,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD **Madam Isabelle Durant**,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on this agenda item. I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Six months after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic the uncertainty regarding after pandemic era persists, the global number of new cases and deceases continue to increase, afterward ununemployment is rising; supply chains are getting more and more fragile; demand will be weak. Debt levels are rising; inequalities are more visible.

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These trends are having more impact in most African countries where the ability to respond to the crisis are challenging due to reliance on exports of commodities whose prices have crashed, impact of the pandemic on tourism sector as well as other structural issues. This situation will inevitably affect Africa's participation in trade and value chains as well as reduce foreign financing flows. In this regard, a comprehensive debt framework to assist African countries to recover from the impact of the pandemic is crucial.

Therefore, once again, we stress the need for UNCTAD to support African countries to further diversify their economies and strengthen the few strategic sectors. Also, UNCTAD should continue to assist African countries to address the challenges and opportunities in relation to the use of the internet and e-commerce to develop their international trade capacities.

Mr. President,

We underscore the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the development integration agenda that aims to promote industrialization and diversification. We recognize the support of UNCTAD on AfCFTA and emphasize the importance of UNCTAD's to enhance its support to African countries that need to make concerted efforts to harmonize their trade-related regulations to boost the intra-regional trade.

in this context, we appeal UNCTAD to further strengthen its work on deliberating, concerted measures to promote structural transformation that leads to: i) Identify policy options aimed at strengthening domestic and international resource mobilization; ii) Inclusive sustainable economic growth; iii) Strengthening linkages between trade and poverty; iv) capacity building as the pillars of economic transformation; v) Agricultural and food security; vi) Industrialization and value addition, including through technological upgrading and innovation; vii) Economic infrastructure development; and Address challenges to inequalities and Social inclusion.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Africa Group wishes to reiterate that now more than ever, the international cooperation should be conducted around solidarity between States with a view to creating a more egalitarian world with focus on accelerating the implementation of the people-centered 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. President

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