

**Statement by the delegation of El Salvador on behalf of the
Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)
at the Third segment, sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board
Geneva, 28 September – 2 October 2020**

**Item 7 - Economic development in Africa: Tackling illicit financial flows
for sustainable development in Africa**

Señor Presidente, S.E. Federico Villegas,
Señor Paul Akiwumi, Director de la División de la UNCTAD para África, los Países Menos Adelantados y Programas Especiales,
Excelencias,
Distinguidos colegas,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC).
2. GRULAC would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the 2020 Report on the Economic Development in Africa, and we commend in particular the choice of such an important topic of illicit financial flows and their impact on sustainable development in Africa. We see this report as a great contribution for the discussion on illicit financial flows, and although it addresses the issues from the African perspective, the lessons and recommendations could also provide food for thought for other regions of the world, including Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The report highlights the fact that illicit financial flows are a shared problem between developed and developing countries and we see the value of discussing such issues in an inclusive, multilateral framework such as the Trade and Development board of UNCTAD. The report provides useful information as to what are some of the main sources of illicit financial flows, as well as their main enablers. The report also acknowledges the central role of institutional and administrative capacities to shape the measurement, regulation and enforcement of laws and regulations relative to IFFs.
4. The report also highlights the difficulties and complexity of measuring illicit financial flows due to major differences in methods, sample sizes and data sets used by different studies. In this sense, GRULAC recognizes and commends the excellent role that UNCTAD played in the multilateral efforts to measure illicit financial flows that lead to a consensus on an agreed definition of illicit financial flows for indicator 16.4.1. as well as on a typology and methodology to measure them.
5. GRULAC notes with interest the different recommendations that the reports provides in order to tackle IFFs at the multilateral, regional and domestic levels in Africa, and hope that such recommendations, and the "10-point plan for tackling IFFs in Africa" will provide guidance for African countries to strengthen their policy approaches and tackle the incidence and impact of IFFs in their Trade and Development.
6. Finally, GRULAC will remain engaged in proposing further ideas and language to the issue of IFF's.

Thank you Mr. President.