

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

Agenda item 1(a): Election of Officers

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Federico Villegas

Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mukhisa Kituyi

Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Isabelle Durant

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Africa Group aligns itself with the statement presented by Zambia on behalf of the G77 and China.

The Africa Group would like to commend His Excellency Ambassador Federico Villegas, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, for his assumption of the Presidency of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The Group further congratulates all members of the Bureau of the Board elected during this session.

Similarly, the Africa Group would like to take this opportunity to commend and express its most sincere gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Michael Gaffey of Ireland, the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, for his dedication, expertise and tireless efforts in guiding the work of the Board and advancing the interests of the Member States of UNCTAD, especially during this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish you great success in your next assignment.

Mr. President,

To conclude, The Africa Group wishes to reiterate its congratulations and support to you and the new Bureau of the Board and wish you full success in this new role.

I thank you, Mr. President.