



**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Salim Baddoura**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the 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,

I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Federico Villegas of the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic, for his assumption of the Presidency of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. I would also like to congratulate all the fellow members of the Bureau of the Board elected during this session, I personally look forward to serve as a member of the Board for a fruitful and dynamic sixty-seventh session of the TDB.

I also wish to express my delegation's most sincere gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Michael Gaffey of Ireland, the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, for his tireless and dedicated efforts in guiding the work of the Board and ensuring the continuity of the work of UNCTAD during these challenging and uncertain times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish him great success in his next assignments.

Mr. President,

Your tenure has come at a watershed moment, as we prepare for an exceptional Fifteenth Ministerial Conference. We will count on your rich diplomatic experience and leadership skills to help us shape an inclusive and development oriented outcome document of UNCTAD 15.

I thank you.