

Armenia, Belarus,
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Russia



Армения, Беларусь,
Казахстан, Кыргызстан,
Россия



**Statement by Russia on behalf of the EAEU Group at the virtual meeting of
67th session of the Trade and Development Board (first segment)
2-3 July 2020**

Item 1(a) – Election of officers

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the EAEU Group, I would like to congratulate Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas upon his election as a President of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (TDB) for 2020-2021.

You take up this post in a difficult period, caused by the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic for the whole world economy. This is also a serious test of strength for the entire system of multilateral organizations that are called upon to actively search for effective responses to the challenges of the new coronavirus infection.

We hope that, under Your leadership, the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD will make a worthy contribution to the development and implementation of an adequate response by UNCTAD to threats to trade and development, including in the framework of the preparation and holding of the 15th UNCTAD Conference.

We would like to assure you, esteemed Mr. President, of the intention of the EAEU Group to actively cooperate with you and support your efforts in this area.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to warmly thank the outgoing President, H.E. Mr. M.Gaffey, for the commendable leadership of the TDB and his energetic efforts to prevent the “lock-down” of the intergovernmental mechanism during this difficult period for the organization. We note with satisfaction the fact that H.E. Mr. M.Gaffey remains in the Bureau of the TDB as a vice-chairman. We are sure that his experience and undoubted diplomatic talent will be in demand in the work of the updated Bureau of the TDB.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate all the new members of the TDB Bureau on their election and assure them of our Group's readiness to engage constructively on all issues on the UNCTAD agenda.

Thank you for your attention.