



**STATEMENT BY
AMB. MAIMUNA K. TARISHI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, BEFORE THE SIXTY SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

GENEVA, 2 JULY 2020

Mr President,

I'm greatly honoured and privileged to address this August Body for the first time as the new Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere desire to maintain excellent relations that exist between my delegation and UNCTAD during my tenure.

Tanzania aligns itself with the statement made by Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Angola on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 67th Session of the Trade and Development Board and also wish to express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Michael Gaffey of Ireland, the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, for his tireless efforts in guiding the work of the Board . Subsequently, I take this opportunity to applaud all other members of the bureau elected to steer this session. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, the Board will have fruitful deliberations and conclusions.

Mr. President,

I wish to join others who have spoken earlier to pay tribute to the late Ambassador Christopher Onyanga Aparr, Permanent Representative of Uganda, who also actively served as President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD from 2016 to 2017. We wish to express our deepest condolences to Ambassador Aparr's family and the Uganda Permanent Mission in Geneva.

Allow me to also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive annual report and opening statement; I assure you of my delegation's collaboration in all your endeavors to further enhance the intellectual credibility of UNCTAD.

Mr. President,

We meet at a time where the Multilateral Trading System is faced by unprecedented pressure. Protectionist sentiments are increasing and multilateralism is facing tremendous challenges. On the other hand, trade has been ascribed as a major role in the pursuit of Agenda 2030, and its contribution to sustainable development remains critical. In this context, UNCTAD must continue to assert the relevance of the multilateral trading system and play its role in the attainment of these goals.

According to the June 2020, World Bank Report on Global Economic Outlook, the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the deepest global recession in decades. While the ultimate outcome is still uncertain, the pandemic will result in contractions across the vast majority of emerging market and developing economies. For Sub-Saharan Africa, growth is projected to downgrade by 2.8%. The downturn of growth is expected to reverse years of progress towards development goals while pushing millions into extreme poverty. The pandemic highlights the urgent need to undertake reforms that enable strong and sustainable growth.

UNCTAD has a long history of achievements that reflects fulfilment of its mandate as the premier international organization addressing problems of trade and development. It's therefore critical that UNCTAD, as a UN think-tank with its mandate of treating trade, investment, finance, technology and development in an integrated manner, plays an essential role in advising countries on which policy actions to take to cushion the impact of COVID-19.

Mr. President,

In response to the pandemic, product diversification and value addition, as well as increasing productivity in traditional sectors (such as agriculture) is vital in increasing economic resilience and building productive capacities needed to create jobs, generate sustainable livelihoods, contribute to food security, increase income and improve quality of life.

UNCTAD has carried out a series of activities to assist developing countries, including Tanzania, in fostering its productive capacities and structural transformation, and measuring the country's overall productive capacities. We call on the UNCTAD Secretariat to enhance its work on building productive capacities aimed at strengthening domestic and regional food and agricultural value chains of developing countries.

Mr. President,

High debt burdens continue to be a critical obstacle to poverty reduction in many developing countries. Before the pandemic, numerous countries accumulated considerable amounts of public and private debt, most of it denominated in foreign currencies. We, therefore, wish to reiterate the need for a comprehensive debt framework and comprehensive approach to structural issues in the international debt architecture, including debt relief to prevent defaults. In this regard, UNCTAD given its mandate on debt issues, has a vital role to play in collaboration with relevant international organizations to advise developing countries on how to overcome debt burdens.

Mr. President,

In closing, I reiterate the full support of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNCTAD and assure you of my delegation's highest cooperation during your tenure as the TDB President.

I THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.