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General Debate

Statement by Estonia on behalf of Group D

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Speaker: Mr. Taavo Lumiste

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Group D at UNCTAD XIV Ministerial Conference

Nairobi, Kenya

July 19, 2016

Delivered by: Mr. Taavo Lumiste, Group D Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Estonia in Geneva

Honoured President of UNCTAD XIV
Your Excellency the Secretary General of UNCTAD
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for Estonia to address this conference on behalf of Group D and its 26 Member States.

On this occasion, I would like to express our appreciation and to thank the Kenyan organizers for providing this inspiring working environment, and we wish Kenya all the success for its presidency of UNCTAD XIV.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the four years since we met in Doha have passed quickly, they have brought us several new scene-setting agreements and outcomes which determine the guiding principles for trade and development agenda today, included for UNCTAD. May I only mention a few amongst the most prominent ones: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcomes of the Climate Summit in Paris, the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and for the foremost – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNCTAD's guiding set of principles, called "From Decisions to Actions" shall add its value to this end while addressing and delivering within its core mandate, which is the trade and development, and within the interrelated areas of finance, technology and investment. In highly integrated and globalized world, we shall well trust that the rest can be accomplished through enhanced cooperation with other stakeholders of the international community. We welcome the good work accomplished by UNCTAD and we encourage further strengthening it in the fields of result-based management. Thus we think this to be included into all fields of UNCTAD activities is of key importance.

Distinguished colleagues,

One might ask, why such a prioritization is needed. The past two decades have made Group D an example of what can be accomplished with well-balanced prioritization, tailor-made implementation and with clear national policies and strategies. We still are called the "countries with economies in transition", but many members of our Group have achieved the level of high-income-countries and are members of the OECD by today. We are glad that this graduation has been so successful. Less than two months ago we welcomed another new member to our Group

– Bosnia and Herzegovina – who shares these views and is firmly following the guiding principles of Group D. This accession is a quality proof for our development path.

At the same time, we would like to see, that the same success could be met among the developing countries, for the foremost, amongst the most vulnerable - the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. UNCTAD shall focus its deliverables on issues where it has the comparative advantage and the expertise of the highest level and which makes difference supporting a country's and a nation's welfare, stability and prosperity. Good governance attracts Foreign Direct Investments. FDI opens many doors for diversification of economy, included the access for technology, etc.

Another important element supporting this is the cooperation with the World Trade Organization. The membership to the WTO shall remain as an integral part of the development strategies aiming to benefit fully from the international trading system. It is also important for the further integration of developing countries, in particular LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with economies in transition, into the rules-based multilateral trading system. UNCTAD shall continue and reinforce its technical assistance and capacity building supporting that agenda before, during and after the process of accession to the WTO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The management of extracted natural resources shall be sustainable and leave the future generations a world where they can shape their future. The Sustainable Development Goals address these issues, and UNCTAD must address these issues within its core mandate. Group D has been one of the loudest promoter of youth inclusion into the UNCTAD's focus. We welcome the discussions at the Youth Forum, and we pledge to remain committed to this end also in the upcoming work of UNCTAD, and at other relevant fora.

Dear friends in UNCTAD,

To conclude, the Group D would like to emphasize, that the time is over for philosophy. It is time for action. Almost a year has passed since adoption the 2030 Agenda, and today we are shaping UNCTAD's mandate for the next four years. That is sums in a third of the time period against 2030. The start is crucial. We must be prioritized, tailor made, committed as recipient national governments, as well as international community. Only then we could witness the world coming closer to the achievement of global goals of prosperity, stability and wealth for all. Dear friends – let's ad ref that joint pledge to support our developing partners in order to be able to welcome the enhanced qualities when we meet at UNCTAD XV in four years from now.

Thank you for your attention.