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General Debate

Statement by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Kenya

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Soehardjono Sastromihardjo

*Not checked against delivery**

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. SOEHARDJONO SASTROMIHARDJO
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
(HEAD OF DELEGATION)
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
UNCTAD XIV MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
NAIROBI, KENYA, 20 JULY 2016**

Mr. President,
Excellencies Ministers of UNCTAD Member Countries,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to stand before you today to represent Indonesia at the Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Ministerial Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi, Kenya.

I wish to begin by extending my highest appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya and its people for the excellent organization and warm hospitality.

I would also wish to congratulate and commend the President of the Conference for the excellent conduct of the meeting.

My appreciation also goes to Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi and his team for their dedication and commitment to the tasks they have been mandated with.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia aligns itself with statement by Jamaica on behalf of the G77 and China.

UNCTAD XIV takes place at a critical juncture in the international development discourse.

The rapid expansion of trade and new technologies helped spur economic growth and transform patterns of interaction. Globalization increased cross-border flows of people, and accelerated products and ideas exchanges, bringing the world's economies closer together.

The dynamism of emerging economies provides another important source of growth for the global economy.

But growth does not necessarily translate directly into sustained and equitable development. Progress has been uneven, fuelling disenchantment. Inequalities persist – many small and vulnerable economies remain peripheral – despite unparalleled trend of economic integration. Poverty and inequality, both between and within nations, remain a pervasive challenge.

With the rising concern on the global economic situation, added with the escalating impact of climate change and energy insecurity as well as volatility in commodity prices, the time is ripe for all concerned on development to taking concrete and concerted actions to address the situation.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking back, the year of 2015 was a crucial year for multilateral processes.

A year of major global decisions.

The great backdrop of such major global decisions are the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris COP 21, the WTO MC-10 and the WSIS+10, which present hope and ambitions. UNCTAD and all its members are gearing to bring those agenda into action and reality.

As the first UN ministerial conference post-2015, UNCTAD XIV outcome must be able to set the tone to transform those global commitments into concrete actions. This quadrennial ministerial conference must be able to reaffirm the important role UNCTAD could play in the implementation of those global commitments, as reflected in the main theme of UNCTAD XIV: “From Decisions to Actions”.

We therefore have to raise the bar, raise our ambitions and raise our commitment to transform our global commitments into concrete actions.

There are however, attempts to marginalize UNCTAD's role in deliberating and addressing many global issues of interest to developing countries.

And it is unacceptable. We should not allow downgrading of the broad mandate of UNCTAD.

Instead, UNCTAD role and mandate need to be reaffirmed, revitalized, strengthened and reinforced, in a new fashion and spirit relevant to current global setting.

The theme of this conference "a call to action" is an important reaffirmation from all members that UNCTAD must be able to address challenges of today; the current global issues of trade and development and related issues.

UNCTAD would not be able to fully carry out its core mandate if we are limiting the role of UNCTAD. UNCTAD is a crucial element of the UN system in empowering most developing countries, LDCs and vulnerable ones in responding to the multifaceted problems within its mandate.

Therefore, we should strive, in the spirit of multilateral and global partnership, not only to strengthen its mandate and but also to ensure adequate resources for UNCTAD to carry out its mandate.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Indonesia emphasizes that the concept of policy space and development principles of equity, inclusiveness, the right to development, and special and differential treatment must be clearly reflected in the UNCTAD XIV outcome document.

UNCTAD XIV must deal with issues critical to most developing countries such as sovereign debt crisis prevention and resolution, tax evasion and tax avoidance, and the reform of international investment agreements.

UNCTAD also has a major role to play in contributing to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

UNCTAD and all its members must seek common understanding and approach that is acceptable to all parties, which balances the interest of developing and developed countries.

In this regard, general issues pertinent to the interest of developing countries need to be addressed:

First, there are systemic issues, in which many policies of developed countries have major impacts on developing countries.

Second, inadequate participation and role of developing countries in international economic decision making, norm-setting and global economic governance.

Third, almost all countries, in particular developing countries, are vulnerable to external shocks. All economies have become more closely integrated into an international economic and financial system that is prone to instability.

Therefore, having a unique role as the UN's primary intergovernmental body for the integrated treatment of trade, development, and other related issues including finance, technology and investment, UNCTAD is well suited to help the global community in addressing those issues under its three pillars.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Keeping in mind the realities of evolving global trade and development issues, we thus must ensure that the core mandate of UNCTAD is not diluted.

We must ensure that outcome of UNCTAD XIV will strengthen the ability of UNCTAD to continue assisting developing countries in the challenges of achieving sustainable development goals.

We must ensure that UNCTAD XIV outcome provides a breakthrough in the implementation of global commitments; not only a repetition upon previously agreed commitments in other frameworks.

In closing, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I wish this ministerial conference a great success.

I thank you