

U.S. Closing statement for UNCTAD Investment and Enterprise Commission
May 3, 2013

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, colleagues, and members of the Secretariat. It has been an honor to attend the Commission on Investment, Enterprise, and Development over the past week.

Trade and investment are important drivers of economic growth and job creation. Collaborative work in addressing these issues is important to developing more and better jobs. In addition, it builds on the close relations between countries and it promotes economic development worldwide. Foreign investment is a critical driver of development. Official development assistance-- while valuable and important-- cannot match the power of the private sector. By establishing strong investment norms, we create the circumstances that enable the private sector to go forth and make economic investments that benefit both their corporate bottom line and our developing country partners as well.

Strengthening **innovation and entrepreneurship** is a high priority for President Obama. In April 2010 he held the first-ever summit on entrepreneurship. Moreover, the State Department supports top technology entrepreneurs from the **Global Innovation through Science and Technology program**. This program has trained and mentored more than 2,500 startups and connected more than one million youth with online tools and resources. These young innovators represent the potential for a future in which local entrepreneurs solve challenging problems – from environmentally friendly chemical extraction in Algeria to green energy technology for Indonesia that provides clean energy.

Global Entrepreneurship Week, November 12-18, presented a unique opportunity to convene the thinkers and doers entering the world's markets. Here in Geneva the U.S. Mission marked Global Entrepreneurship Week by working with UNCTAD to organize a panel discussion on women's entrepreneurship. The panel gave women entrepreneurs from Ethiopia, Mexico, and the United States the opportunity to talk about building their businesses from the ground up and leveraging support networks for entrepreneurship. The panel discussion and the subsequent reception attracted a large, diverse and engaged audience, demonstrating that the subject of women's entrepreneurship has broad appeal. We hope to continue working with UNCTAD to promote entrepreneurship.

We've been emphasizing the importance of results and impact at every opportunity, so this is the right moment to commend the "*Division of Investment*

and Enterprise: Results and Impact” report. This information helps our capitals and our taxpayers understand how UNCTAD can make a difference.

UNCTAD’s Investment Policy Reviews (IPR) are a good example of policy analysis with an impact. I would have been honored to participate in the discussion of Mozambique’s Investment Policy Review, but through a communication mishap, I did not receive the invitation.. That said, I’d like to take the opportunity now to comment on this report.

The United States is very pleased to have a long history of partnership and cooperation with Mozambique in the field of economic development. Given our close partnership, we recognize both the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this report. While there are many valuable and considered recommendations in the report, we highlight just a few that we encourage the Government of Mozambique to consider closely.

As the report notes, Mozambique has witnessed impressive growth over the past decade, due in part to significant investments in the extractive industry sector. To maintain this growth and ensure that it contributes to poverty reduction, Mozambique will need to continue its investments in infrastructure and pay close attention to the legal frameworks that encourage broad-based development.

We also recognize the need for development in agriculture, agro-processing, tourism, small-scale manufacturing and services, as called for in the report. In fact, the United States has partnered with Mozambique to improve performance in those areas, including through agriculture projects and land tenure programs. We encourage Mozambique to continue to focus on the need for land use policies, streamlined licensing procedures, and reformed regulatory attitudes, as cited in the report. Many of these steps will facilitate and encourage investment and development in these and other sectors.

Technical improvements, infrastructure development, and policy modifications will only take Mozambique so far. The report further calls for guaranteed core standards of treatment to all foreign investors. Such clarity and transparency are critical to assure potential investors of the long-term value in partnering with Mozambique. We applaud Mozambique for the recent passage of anti-corruption legislation and emphasize the need for Mozambique to continue to focus on this problem. Transparency and good governance are cornerstones to a sound investment climate.

As a close development partner of Mozambique, we are pleased to have this opportunity to exchange views on the investment climate in Mozambique. We look forward to continued bilateral and multilateral engagement with Mozambique as a means to achieve broad-based investment and development that will benefit all Mozambicans.