

**Statement by the Mr. Martin N. Eze, Minister Counsellor Permanent  
Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Geneva at the Working Party  
on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget Seventh Fourth  
Session Geneva, 28 November 2016**

**The Chairperson,  
Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates.**

**Madam Chair,**

Permit my delegation to congratulate you and the bureau on your election. We express our confidence on your ability to stir this important session to a successful conclusion. My delegation also aligns itself with the statements made by Argentina on behalf of G77 and China, and Namibia on behalf of the African Group.

Madam Chair,

2. We recognize that the main objective of the programme of UNCTAD and ITC is to assist developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition to beneficially integrate into the global economy through support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. In the implementation process of the Maakifiano and other relevant UN development agenda as articulated in the programme plans for 2016-2017, 2018-2019, and the programme narrative for 2018-2019 of the working party, the element of inclusiveness is critical for achievement of the objective. The programme should be inclusive in addressing economic needs of Member States especially Africa and the least developed countries.

3. The Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other United Nations sustainable developmental goals lies mainly on individual Member States. This makes it imperative for the UNCTAD's support for addressing the problem of illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and tax evasion. That does not exclude debt management issues. These outlined financial concerns constitute the major roadblocks in achievement of economic advancement of most developing countries. An inclusive and holistic reflection on the implementation process of the Nairobi Maakifiano and other UN development agenda in the programme of work of the working party will be one of the enduring legacies of this session.

4. It is pertinent also to note here that for UNCTAD to successfully execute its mandate in line with the expectation of Member States, the need for additional regular funding cannot be overemphasized.

**Madam Chair,**

5. As the working party may end up with some policy recommendations for the consideration of the TDB which might constitute part of the UN work on development, we wish to underscore the significance of the inclusion of, among others, responsible investment as reflected on the Nairobi UNCTAD XIV outcome, paragraph 68, and the need to support Africa's industrialization efforts.

6. My delegation commends the UNCTAD for its work on the International Investment Agreements (IIAs), and wishes to state that more support is needed in addressing the concerns of developing countries on IIAs for achievement of accelerated growth and development.

7. For ultimate realization of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, the importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development is critical.

**Madam Chair,**

8. Let me conclude by expressing my delegation's gratitude to UNCTAD for its works in Nigeria especially on investment policy review and wishes to inform that the responsible unit will soon be contacted for the next lap of the review exercise.

9. Thank you Chair as we look forward to fruitful deliberations.