

**Permanent Mission
of The Republic of The
SUDAN
Geneva**



**البعثة
الدائمة
لجمهورية
السودان
جنيف**

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sudan,
On behalf of the African Group on item 2: General Debate
at the Seventy –Sixth Session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the
Program Budget
Geneva, 3 -5 September 2018**

**Chair,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Chair,

On behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to steer the work of this Session of the Working Party. We are confident that under your able leadership, the Session will reach to a fruitful outcome. We assure you of our full support. Let me also thank Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD for her opening remarks. The African Group expresses its appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for the documents prepared for this Session.

Chair,

The African Group fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan, on behalf of the Group 77& China. However, the Group would like to make a few remarks, on the draft documents under consideration. This session provides an opportunity to examine UNCTAD's work on technical cooperation and Evaluation of Subprogrammes. The meeting is important for stakeholders, including donors and beneficiaries, to exchange views on how to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UNCTAD operational activities. This is particularly meaningful in the context of the repositioning of the UN development system to deliver on 2030 Agenda.

According to the analytical note prepared by the secretariat, in 2017, overall voluntary funding to UNCTAD trust funds was \$35.1 million, 12% less than in 2016. Developed country contributions fell to \$6.8 million, 30% of decrease

compared with 2016. This led to the drop of share of developed countries in total trust fund resources to 19%, the lowest level in the past two decades.

Chair,

The African Group is concerned about the fall of voluntary funding to UNCTAD trust funds and the declining share of developed countries in total trust fund resources. Today, many developing countries, including the vulnerable least developing countries in Africa, still rely on the support of development partners to finance technical cooperation projects. Enhanced financial and technical support is crucial for these countries to make steady progress towards SDGs. Developed countries and development partners are therefore called upon to enhance their contributions to UNCTAD so that more developing countries can benefit from the technical assistance from UNCTAD to implement the 2030 Agenda.

In 2017, total expenditure on African regional and country projects reached \$14 million, which supported the implementation of 62 country projects and 20 regional projects in Africa. Compared with 2016, total expenditure on African regional and country projects was 5% less. This was mainly due to a decrease in the delivery of projects related to transport and trade facilitation, investment facilitation and trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy. The African Group calls upon UNCTAD to strengthen its activities on these important fields.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires broad-based partnership and enhanced cooperation within and beyond the entity. The interdivisional and inter-agency cooperation is becoming an increasingly important feature of UNCTAD technical cooperation. By building on synergies and harnessing complementarity, UNCTAD can achieve more tangible results from its technical cooperation activities.

Chair,

The African Group is pleased that the External Evaluation of UNCTAD's Sub programme 5 on Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes confirmed that the SP5 and its outputs, including publications, technical cooperation and consensus-building efforts, were highly relevant to the UNCTAD mandates on trade and development. The Group also concurs with the report findings that the current strategy and resources of SP5 need to be realigned and

its portfolio rebalanced, to help address the challenges faced by beneficiary countries and stakeholders.

Chair,

The African Group stresses the importance of the meetings of the Working Party especially with the ongoing process of the United Nations development system reform. In this context the Group looks forward to the finalization of the Working Party Term of Reference by the upcoming Trade and Development Board second Session in October 2018 as agreed on the outcome document of the phase II: Revitalization of UNCTAD Intergovernmental Machinery.

Chair,

In conclusion, the African Group assure you its readiness for constructive engagement on the deliberation of this session for a fruitful outcome.

I thank you