



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Statement

by

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United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

before

**the Sixteenth Session of
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission of UNCTAD**

Closing Statement

Geneva, 31 August – 4 September 2026

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to you for your leadership throughout this session. We also thank the UNCTAD secretariat and all delegations for their efforts during the deliberations.

At the closing of this session, my delegation wishes to reiterate the importance it attaches to an enabling international investment environment and more equitable access to investment opportunities for developing countries. Investment outcomes cannot be determined by domestic policies alone. External conditions and barriers also affect the ability of developing countries to attract, retain and benefit from investment, including through their impact on access to finance and financial services, technology and related know-how, and international markets.

In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again places on record its firm opposition to unilateral coercive measures. Such measures constitute

a serious obstacle to investment and development by restricting access to investment, finance, technology and markets, increasing costs and risks, and deterring investment and reinvestment. They also heighten uncertainty and perceived risks, distort investment decisions and flows, increase the cost of cross-border transactions, and undermine the predictability, stability and inclusiveness of the broader international investment environment.

We note that concerns regarding unilateral coercive measures and their development implications were raised repeatedly during this session, including in national and group statements. We therefore regret that these concerns were not substantively reflected in the final outcome of the Commission. We believe that the outcomes of an intergovernmental body should appropriately reflect the substantive discussions and positions expressed by its members, including where differences of views remain.

At the same time, the outcome of this Commission does not prejudice the intergovernmental negotiations at the seventy-third session of the Trade and Development Board. We expect the substantive discussions and concerns raised in this Commission, including those relating to unilateral coercive measures, to be duly carried forward to the Board and appropriately reflected in the negotiation of its relevant resolution.

Considering the repeated attention given to this issue by member States and groups, we also expect the development and investment implications of unilateral coercive measures to receive appropriate analytical attention in UNCTAD's future work and relevant reports, including their effects on investment flows, access to investment and the broader international investment environment.

We further believe that the negotiation of intergovernmental outcomes, both at the level of the Commission and subsequently at the Trade and Development Board, should remain transparent, inclusive and member-driven, with the effective and equal participation of all members.

In conclusion, we trust that UNCTAD will continue to facilitate the development of developing countries, remain responsive to their priorities and concerns, and provide an inclusive intergovernmental platform in which those concerns are effectively heard and appropriately reflected in its work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.