

**Statement by the Delegation of Guatemala on behalf of the
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
at the 12th Session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**
Geneva, 15 February 2021

Item 3 - Reports of expert meetings

**(a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and
Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development**

Chair of the twelfth Session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Ambassador Omar Zniber of Morocco,
Director James Zhan of the Division on Investment and Enterprise,
Director Shamika Sirimanne of the Division on Technology and Logistics,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. GRULAC would like to thank the Chair of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development, Mr. Raúl Vargas Juárez, from Mexico, for his report on this important expert meeting.
2. The Group notes that this expert meeting was an opportunity to discuss emerging issues on investment and enterprise for development; and recognizes the need for new development strategies in order to address the four megatrends that are reshaping the international trade and investment landscape: the fourth industrial revolution, the sustainability imperative, the rise of economic nationalism and restructuring of the international production network.
3. The group would like to highlight the call for prioritization of entrepreneurship especially for the most vulnerable groups of society and the need to increase support and capacity building for micro, small and medium enterprises, in order to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery of COVID-19 pandemic. In this sense, the group would like to commend UNCTAD for the fourth updated version of its Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and express appreciation for the Empretec programme that has benefited many of the countries from the region.
4. The group notes the conclusions of the discussions that underscored that science, technology and innovation are essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; commends the work of UNCTAD in this area in particular through the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews and capacity-building activities; and encourages UNCTAD secretariat to continue its efforts to provide projects and programmes in favour of the GRULAC region.
