

UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Group D Statement - Opening Statement  
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**Statement delivered by  
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Mr President,  
Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Group D.

Mr President,

On behalf of Group D, please accept our congratulations to you on your election as the President of the Trade and Development Board. We are looking forward to work closely both with you, as well as with the other colleagues and Secretariat, to have a successful Trade and Development Board session.

On behalf of Group D, I also would like to convey our sincere appreciation of the dedication and efforts by the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, Ambassador Ana Maria Menéndez Pérez – especially regarding her enormous efforts, inspiration and patience with us on compromising and consensus building on the Lima theme and sub-themes. Let me also thank all the outgoing Members of the Bureau for their work.

Mr President,

In six months' time, the UNCTAD XIV Conference will take place in Lima. The UNCTAD Secretary General, Dr. Kituyi presented a proposal on the potential theme and sub-themes for the Conference half a year ago. This theme and sub-themes are now agreed on ad referendum basis. On behalf of Group D, let me thank all the stakeholders for their efforts in this consensus building process. With that in mind, our group is also looking forward to reading the report by the Secretary General, which should pave the way to Lima and feed discussions on the Lima

Outcome Document. Group D is looking forward to inclusive, comprehensive and resultful future cooperation and negotiation process with our partners in that regard.

Mr President,

Please allow me to elaborate briefly on the management of UNCTAD work. Group D is determined to work closely with UNCTAD in the trade and development arena. We acknowledge with appreciation the think-tank role that UNCTAD has undertaken with many timely and in-depth topical discussions and studies. We highly appreciate the focus to advise the Member States on trade and development policies, implementation, best practices and lessons learned. The core mandate of the organization should be in focus while implementing the initiatives across the seven areas of the Work Plan. We also commit ourselves to support the UNCTAD Secretariat by implementing the recommendations set out by the Joint Inspection Unit in a timely manner.

Mr President,

The year 2015 is very significant for global development agenda design and future implementation. In the very close coming days, we will agree upon Sustainable Development Goals, the SDG-s, just as we agreed on the outcome document of the Third Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July. In December, there is another future designing event taking place – that is the WTO 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, which also tackles the elements of trade and development. Trade policies are often major contributors to economic growth and development across the entire society. Continuous investment, especially in empowering women and youth, are of highest importance. In this regard, may I mention, for example the Aid for Trade initiative, as one of the most important tools among many, focusing on the development of the LDC-s.

The key outcomes of the year 2015 guide us towards the Lima Conference in March, which we have entitled “From decision to action”. That paves the future of UNCTAD – the action, the implementation, the strain for change; as it paves the way, we shall commit ourselves. We have achieved a lot of good progress, but the future demands even more effort and work to overcome the remaining challenges. The toolbox we have enables us to go forward.

Mr President, dear colleagues and friends,

Enhancing the organization’s efficiency is crucial, as well as a key element to keep the focus on UNCTAD’s core mandate, with balanced cooperation on international, regional and country levels. The organization shall be able to deliver, and Group D remains committed to continue its cooperation addressing inclusive and sustainable growth.

Thank you for your attention.