



**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
GENEVA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. JAMES ALEX MSEKELA
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,
CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON ITEM 5 -
CONTRIBUTION OF UNCTAD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
FOR THE DECADE 2011-2020
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD, GENEVA, 13 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Mr. President,

H.E Mr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Republic of Ghana,

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates.

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, the G77 and China wish to commend the Secretariat for the reports prepared for this session and reaffirm our appreciation for the overall work of UNCTAD in support of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). UNCTAD has a mandate to promote a better integration of developing countries into the world economy and the LDCs should not be left behind.

Mr. President,

2. Building productive capacities is an essential step towards sustained economic growth and development. We are glad to see that this important policy goal has been a longstanding recommendation of UNCTAD and reverberates throughout UNCTAD

work in support of the LDCs. We should also note that the objectives of economic diversification, technological upgrading and structural transformation have been acknowledged by the international community and are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

3. Most of LDCs remain dependent on a few primary commodities and face serious constraints to mobilize the resources needed to finance their development. Increased access to their exports, through bilateral and multilateral action, is crucial for stimulating growth and increasing revenues. Revenue mobilization will also require tackling illicit financial flows, which depends heavily on action at the international level. Furthermore, meeting longstanding international aid commitments, in particular the 0.15-0.20 ODA target, is an essential part of building economy-wide productive capacities to enable the LDCs to structurally transform their economies.

4. We appreciate the support delivered through the technical cooperation pillars to many LDCs, as listed in the report of this session. We would also like to highlight the intellectual contribution given by UNCTAD through its analytical work. The advocacy and recommendation for action by the international community are appreciated and it further pursued, thus reinforcing UNCTAD's role as an incubator of ideas.

Mr. President,

5. Let me recall some of the recommendations:

(a) Fulfilment by donors of their long-standing commitments to provide 0.15–0.20 per cent of their national income for assistance to the least developed countries, to make aid more stable and predictable, and to align it more closely with national development strategies;

(b) Faster progress towards 100 per cent duty-free and quota-free access for least developed country exports to developed country markets;

(c) Renewed efforts to break the stalemate on special and differential treatment for the least developed countries in World Trade Organization negotiations;

- (d) Full and timely operationalization of a technology bank for the least developed countries in 2017, with adequate financing and due regard for each country's level of development;
- (e) Improved monitoring of technology transfer to the least developed countries;
- (f) A more systematic, smooth transition process for graduating countries, to limit the impact of losing access to international support measures when they graduate.

6. Let me also recall the idea contained in the last LDC Report (2016) on a LDC Finance Facilitation Mechanism to deal with the complex aid and financial architecture. Without necessarily entering into the merits of such an initiative, this is the sort of intellectual guidance from UNCTAD that can be very helpful in stimulating collective action within the organization and beyond. Member States should engage more in deliberating on concrete initiatives in support of LDCs. The Secretariat could also use its networks and convening power to disseminate to other organizations and to the international community the main ideas and policy recommendations emanating from its work.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me recall the SecretaryGeneral's observation that "*the LDCs are the battleground on which Sustainable Development Goals will be won or lost*". This is why the G.77 and China wishes to underscore the imperative of support to the LDCs on the part of the international community to ensure global stability in the long run.

I thank you Mr. President.