

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

UNCTAD Trade and Development Board

Geneva, 4-12 June 2018

Russian Trade and Economic Development Council

Item 13 (c)

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

Thank you Mr. Secretary-General for giving me the floor.

- I speak on behalf of the Trade and Economic Development Council, which works in Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States.

- TEDC has always stressed the importance of UNCTAD's analytical work and policy recommendations, especially in the areas of macroeconomic policies, finance, trade and investment.

- We would like to admit that unfortunately nowadays international trade experiences tough times that is a bad sign for the global economic dynamics. International trade development is facing intensifying pressure caused by unilateral actions and trade-restrictive policies of some countries that prevent international trade and world economics from development and growth. Geopolitical challenges, technological innovations as well as drastic changes in social structures cause complex problems at both national and global levels. In such conditions multilateral trade is getting majorly hindered and businesses – especially small and medium enterprises – are not able to take all the opportunities from technological development and new trends.

- International community within the United Nations structures should strive for overcoming mentioned negative trends and delivering common contribution to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard we consider UNCTAD's role might be stronger in such questions as promoting the role of trade and investment as key factors of sustainable development. We are sure that all countries should adhere to the Sustainable Development Goals and the WTO principles in their interactions. On the trade policy and negotiations we would like to see more active role of UNCTAD in supporting of countries while defining their negotiations positions for achieving real economic gains. A broad movement in support of multilateral trade for sustainable economic development is vital as well as cooperation of the international community in working together in different formats.

- The economic interdependence of the world and the growing number of participants in foreign economic activity determine the functioning of special institutions in each state for the development of national trade and increase of competitiveness such as Trade and Economic Development Council. We in our turn have intension to maintain relations with all countries and economics. Every year TEDC holds meetings and negotiations at the highest level to discuss urgent questions and topics of bilateral and multilateral trade. TEDC promotes export and import development via promotion of business communications and trust development between entrepreneurs. We are sure that it's necessary to make it more familiar for business to communicate and cooperate.

- Over the last few years the issue of sustainable development has become increasingly important in Russia and CIS-countries - that is evident from the ongoing legislation reforms, civil society initiatives and new business practices. Russian experts play an active role in advances concerning world economy, trade and environmental stability development and discussions at international forums. We expect fair conditions for all international trade actors.

- Actors of world economy should use new tools and opportunities that appear thanks to e-commerce and digital trends development in economy. The framework for a development-friendly international trading system will be also promoted by digital platforms creating that are compatible with the global information space. This will allow to organize new production processes, financial services and logistics, including using the technology of "distributed registry" that is very important for financial transactions and world trade.

- We underline the importance and values of the UNCTAD policy regarding engagement of non-governmental organizations in working on trade, investment, and competition issues. We perceive such coherence as one of central factors for strengthening UNCTAD's values.

I thank you.