

Statement by the African Group to be delivered by the
H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin (Sudan)
Agenda Item 2: Evaluation and review of UNCTAD implementation of the
quadrennial conference outcome
Sixty-Fifth Session of the Trade and Development Board (Part-II)
Geneva, 1-4 October 2018.

Mr. President,
Secretary-General, Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi,
Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on item 2 of the agenda, “**Evaluation and review of UNCTAD implementation of the quadrennial conference outcome**”. At the outset, I wish to express appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on Maafikaino mandate implementation for the past two years.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the H.E. Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group expresses gratitude for all the work done by UNCTAD. We also encourage UNCTAD to continue its core mission to consider, analyse and assess the global issues of trade, finance, investment and technology in an integrated manner and from a developmental and developing country perspective.

Mr. President,

The Africa Group appreciate UNCTAD’s crucial contributions in addressing some of the continent’s ongoing trade and development challenges through the activities undertaken in the region in line with African priorities set out in the agenda 2063. The Group requests UNCTAD to continue conducting researches and policy analysis to support African countries in transforming their economies to accelerate sustainable development and facilitate the region’s integration into the world economy.

The Group thanks UNCTAD for its support to the African Member States through the African Union Commission in the negotiations of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Group Further requests UNCTAD to continue its support in phase two negotiations on the remaining protocols.

Mr. President,

The Africa Group is deeply concerned that Africa's share in world exports of goods is declining. To simply recover from this trend, and develop resilience in future, Africa will need to invest more in the development of robust supply capacity to trade in upgraded products especially services and manufactured goods because they are less vulnerable to external shocks. In this regard UNCTAD's support to Africa must be strengthened and put in the context of the continent's participation in international trade.

The African Group takes note with appreciation of UNCTAD's work, through inter agency cooperation, in particular with the United Nations Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to measure illicit financial flows in Africa. The Group request UNCTAD to continue this endeavour.

Mr. President,

The Africa Group believes that in the current trade war, UNCTAD has very little space to resolve the critical issues. UNCTAD may be able to reassert its historic role in supporting and guiding developing countries in trade policy. Therefore, it would be prudent for UNCTAD to work in empowering and capacitating the developing countries to manage the contestations at the WTO.

Mr. President,

as we take stock of the implementation of intergovernmental decisions, the African Group wishes to remind the Secretariat that the Single Year Expert Meeting on Promoting Value Addition remains outstanding four years after its adoption by the Board. As the Board we need to be advised on the arrangements to convene this meeting.

Finally, **Mr. President,** the African Group looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this agenda item and the Group will present its substantive comments on the document as we progress in discussion. In line with Para 15 of Maafikaino we hope these comment and discussions could be reflected as recommendation to guide the Secretariat in remaining phase of implementation within the mandate given in the Maafikiano.

I thank you.