

**GRULAC UNCTAD
GENEVA**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Álvaro Cedeño Molinari
Ambassador Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
On behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
At the Sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board (Second part)
Geneva, 1-4 October 2018**

Item 3 – Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world

Tuesday, 2 October 2018 (morning session)

Mr. President, H.E. Ambassador Salim Baddoura (Lebanon),
Ms. Isabelle Durant Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies,
Distinguished panelists,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. Mr. President, I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).
2. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of the Trade and Development Report 2018. This year's publication highlights a series of issues that impact the dynamic of developing countries in many ways.
3. In this context, the policy challenges identified in the digital era refer, among others, to the importance of building digital capacities and digital infrastructure to narrow existing gaps between developing and developed countries. Also, regulatory frameworks, development of skills and finance for investment in the digital economy still remain some of the most important issues to address in this area.
4. Furthermore, the role of emerging economies in the world stage, and the transformation of global value chains reaffirm UNCTAD's call to strengthen intraregional trade as a way to move up the ladder. Thus, the promotion of infrastructure investment and financing for development remain key issues to address, in particular to build industrial capacities.
5. The members of GRULAC welcome all efforts directed to ensure the creation of inclusive public policies that contemplate all of these aspects. As UNCTAD's mandate states, with the purpose of benefitting all of humanity through a global economic system.

Mr. President,

6. We sail in turbulent waters, where uncertainty and skepticism over trade and globalization gander through the windows of the multilateral stage. Against this background, we must remember that developing countries have benefitted the most from international trade, as the Havana Charter envisioned 70 years ago. Its core intentions are timeless and should inspire our work, to ensure that its legacy remains abiding.
7. Finally, Mr. President, the members of GRULAC who are part of the Group of 77 and China associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Chair of the G77 and China.

I thank you.