

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin  
Permanent Representative of Sudan,  
On behalf of the African Group  
Trade and development report, Sixty-Fifth Session (Part II) of Trade and  
Development Board, Geneva, 1–4 October 2018.**

**Mr. President,  
Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates.**

**Mr. President,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The Group fully associates itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of G.77 and China.

**Mr President,**

The African Group would like, at the outset, to thank the different panellists who have spoken on this agenda item "investment for development" and for the very useful and interesting information they have provided.

**-Mr President,**

Developing countries are experiencing an investment gap, and the global perspectives for a recovery are small and need to be addressed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The declining trend in foreign direct investment and the slowdown in global value chains is a major reason of concern for the Group as it affects, particularly, those in developing countries. As a result, the outlook for 2018 remains modest.

The African Group believes that in order to overcome these difficulties, it is essential to mobilize the necessary financial resources and take measures to promote and facilitate investments in order to help overcome the reluctance of investors, which are not enthusiast in some sectors related to the SDGs. In addition, public-private partnerships, which requires a mixed approach combining policies for investment, enterprise, technology and innovation, are other elements that can contribute to the creation of wealth.

Among other measures to be taken is the importance of introducing new incentive mechanisms and creating a new generation of investment promotion agencies that would target investors according to the SDGs and establish a proposal for a list of projects that can be financed.

Moreover, it is necessary to emphasize on improving the capabilities of developing countries in the fields of technology and innovation, to engage firmly in a process of technological convergence with advanced countries, highlight innovative methods to promote access to technology for the achievement of the SDGs. These are the actions that the Group calls for in order to advance prosperity for all and leave no one behind.

The African Group also stresses the importance of the role of skills development in the commodities sector in helping countries, businesses and individuals to move up the value chain in order to contribute to the development of their products, to create decent employment opportunities and to provide vocational training.

For its part, the international community is called upon to redouble its efforts to bridge the gap between technological capabilities in developed and developing countries. An innovative approach to meeting the needs of society in a broader sense than traditional innovation policies is needed.

In this context, the African Group considers that it is necessary to strengthen strategies, policies, tools and practices aimed at promoting investment in those SDG's targeting specific population groups such as women, migrants and young , as well as implementation of related capacity building programs.

In addition, the African Group notes that among other factors promoting investment for development, is the reform of International Investment Agreements (IIAs) focused on sustainable development that should be part of the setting-up of international policies in the field of development. and it is time to focus on how to modernize the existing stock of legacy treaties.

In this context, UNCTAD should continue to provide a forum for collective and inclusive engagement and, in accordance with its mandate, to act as coordinator within the United Nations on issues related to international investment and sustainable development.

**I thank you**