

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Group D Statements

**Statements delivered by
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Agenda Item 2: High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

(b) Trade policies and their impact on inequalities

Mr. President, Secretary General, Excellences, honoured Delegates,

I speak on behalf of Group D and its Member States.

It is clear, that trade is a catalyst for economic growth and development, and thus are the trade policies too. While discussing the broader trade and development related means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10, Group D already addressed the horizontal issues. Now, let us address some nuances of how trade policies can level the inequalities.

Relevant both in international and domestic trade, I would like to mention one of the key elements - the MSMEs. Despite the MSMEs still do not count for the biggest share of global trade, they are the most numerous. The importance of the MSMEs lays in that they are more or less accessible for everyone - in the sense that indeed everybody can become an entrepreneur. What we need for that is a broad and supportive business environment, starting with entrepreneurial education, good governance etc. – the elements we addressed/discussed during the previous session. Therefore, we think that in order to act against the inequalities we should define and implement trade policies, enhance trade environment and implement the actions to support the MSMEs. Trade facilitation is an important element for that. Effective use of single-window business-creation and business-making toolboxes can enhance these opportunities enormously. Estonian team of concept- and web-developers has been involved successfully with UNCTAD counterparts to make a template model available for all the membership of this organization. To add another layer, let me say that the Aid for Trade projects can play significant and supportive role here. Of course, context-specific and tailor-made programming should take effect here as well.

We call UNCTAD to continue and strengthen its work on MSMEs, related to the trade policies and their impact on trade, development and fighting inequalities.

Thank you.