



**Statement by  
His Excellency Mr Nasir Ahmad Andisha  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan  
Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China  
at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Trade and Development Board**

**Item 10: UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi of Tanzania,  
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Madame Isabelle Durant,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD Isabelle Durant for her presentation and the important insights it offers as to the contribution of UNCTAD to the reform of the development system of the United Nations and in so doing to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and other major intergovernmental outcomes.
2. One of the main priorities during the first term of Secretary-General Guterres was UN reform, in particular the reform of the development system. After approval by the General Assembly, the main elements of this package are now in place: country teams are now under the responsibility of the United Nations Secretariat and the various coordination mechanisms and offices are functioning.
3. Nevertheless, quoting the UNSG on this same matter: *Reform is not an end in itself. The purpose of reform is simple and clear: to best position the United Nations to deliver on humanity's boldest agenda: the sustainable development goals.* As we face the extended fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for support to developing countries on a wide array of issue is more relevant than ever.
4. The support of the UN country teams with the national level contribution of various agencies of the United Nations System is therefore very welcome and appreciated by Members of the Group of 77 and China. We furthermore believe that the contribution of UNCTAD to the work of the country teams must be reinforced, as UNCTAD has a strong tradition of understanding and upholding a development-country perspective of many of the development challenges we face.
5. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) is a clear example of a mechanism that has provided a gateway for such participation of UNCTAD at national and regional level, matching donor funds with the long-standing expertise of UNCTAD.

Madame President,

6. It is a priority of our Group to ensure that the development agenda at national and regional level does not overshadow or is in any way seen to replace the work of non-resident agencies like UNCTAD. In particular the consensus building, normative work and research and analysis of UNCTAD must not be affected by the efforts to better coordinate at national and regional level. Indeed, the contribution that you have mentioned of UNCTAD to the UN socio-economic response framework as well as contributions to other major intergovernmental processes, highlight the uniqueness of UNCTAD's perspective.

7. UNCTAD was conceived and continues to be a forum for global issues and to find common solutions for the big development questions of our time. It is therefore important that the work of UNCTAD along its three pillars of work continues to respond to the priorities and views of member States, in line with the decisions of the UNCTAD Conferences, the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies.

8. It is of vital importance that we continue our dialogue on global solutions for global problems, and our Group sees UNCTAD as the rightful place to do so. We must reaffirm this aspiration and be bold and ambitious in our thinking as we continue on our road to UNCTAD 15, so as to ensure that we adopt an outcome that is at the height of the conjuncture we face today.

I thank you, Madame President.