

**GRULAC UNCTAD
G E N E V A**

**Statement by Guatemala
Coordinator of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
at the sixty-eight Session of the Trade and Development Board**

**Item 2 – High-level segment: Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures:
Preparatory meeting on the road to UNCTAD 15 and LDC5**

(b) LDCs Priorities for the Road to LDC5

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

1. The GRULAC would like to thank the former Chair of the TDB, Ambassador Federico Villegas and UNCTAD Secretariat for their hard work in preparing this important High-level Segment in order to discuss the LDCs priorities for the Road to LDC5 Conference.
2. The group would like to highlight the work of UNCTAD's Secretariat and in particular from the Division for Africa, least developed countries and special programs, as they have been instrumental to reinforce and promote the work to support LDCs not only in UNCTAD but throughout the UN System. The group believes that "The Least Developed Countries Report" provides research, analysis and recommendations that advance the focused work of this group, and provides a good basis for substantive discussions at the level of the Trade and Development Board (TDB).
3. The Nairobi Maafikiano highlighted the contribution and the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action); the LDC5 Conference is a new opportunity to craft a plan of action for the decade 2021-2030 that places at its center the interests and needs of LDCs, and we welcome the possibility of discussing these issues at the TDB in order to provide substantive contributions and inputs for the preparation of such Conference. The Group also welcomes future support of unctad for the LDCs.