

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE TRADE  
AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD 21 JUNE – 2 JULY 2021**

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**Agenda Item 2 (a): 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,  
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD Madame Isabelle Durant,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Kenya aligns with the statements that have been delivered by Afghanistan on behalf of the G77+ China, Botswana on behalf of the African Group and Malawi on behalf of the LDCs.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the speakers for highlighting key elements relating priorities for LDC5 and which set the stage for our today's discussion. The presentation by the Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Ms. Amina Mohammed has further underscored the importance of prioritising the LDCs in the international development agenda so that we leave no one behind as we climb the global development path.

**Madame President**

The Least Developed Countries form a critical component in the quest for a better and meaningful recovery and pursuit for prosperity for all and they must therefore be prioritized for us to achieve this elusive goal. Initially, while COVID-19 pandemic had a catastrophic health impact, its economic effects have been tremendous for this group of countries with their economies experiencing the worst economic shocks in several decades.

The LDCs have deployed their limited resources to counter the negative effects of the pandemic but they find themselves worst hit by a crisis for which they are not responsible. The international community must therefore take coordinated, effective and targeted actions that will help its vulnerable members tackle the root causes of the vulnerabilities that have left them so exposed to the economic impacts of the pandemic and any other crisis. More importantly, it is imperative that there is a concerted global effort to ensure access and fair distribution of Covid-19 vaccine as a global public good.

**I thank you**