

**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**

**Agenda item 4: Annual Report of the Secretary-General**

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. It is an honor for Guatemala to present this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean (GRULAC). The Group would like to thank the Acting Secretary-General Durant for her opening remarks and the presentation of the Annual Report.
2. The consideration of the annual report of the Secretary-General is an important moment for the Trade of Development Board, as the highest body of UNCTAD, to be informed of the efforts and actions taken by the Secretariat to implement the outcomes of the Conference, the Proposed Program agreed by Members at an annual basis at the Working Party, as well as Decisions taken by the board or its subsidiary bodies.
3. Unfortunately, in order for the Members to have a proper consideration of the report, and be able to provide their views and guidance for the future, such report should be distributed prior to the meeting. The GRULAC would like to recommend that for future TDB regular sessions, such report is distributed well in advance of the meeting.
4. GRULAC would like to highlight the important work that has been done on the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and we would like to encourage the Secretariat to continue updating such data and provide analysis and recommendations on the best practices across all divisions, and topics under its mandate.
5. GRULAC would also like to mention the importance of the outcome document that is currently being negotiated ahead of UNCTAD XV which will provide further guidance for the Secretariat to continue its work, taking in consideration the interests and needs of developing countries.
6. The Group would like to thank Acting Secretary General Durant for her engagement during these past few months leading the Secretariats work. In particular we would like to highlight her efforts to meet with the GRULAC to better understand our needs and expectatins was a very positive action. We look forward in continue working with you and the new SG.

I thank you, Madame President.