Statement by the Russian Federation on behalf of the EAEU Group at the 68th session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD

Geneva, 21 June – 2 July 2021

Agenda item 5 – Technology and Innovation Report 2021: Catching Technological Waves – Innovations with Equity

Dear Mr. President! Dear Ms I.Durant, Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD! Dear colleagues!

Reducing technological inequality, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is an important factor in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we note the relevance of the UNCTAD Report on Technology and Innovation 2021. We highly appreciate the expert work carried out to analyse the innovative development in the world, identify new socio-economic challenges in the transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and develop policy recommendations aimed at reducing the technological gap between countries.

We welcome the Innovation Readiness Index developed by UNCTAD experts. In our opinion, this tool not only demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses of each country in the field of innovative development, but also serves as a kind of compass for national regulators in carrying out the necessary reforms.

Of particular note, in our view, is the report's emphasis on the role of international cooperation and official development assistance (ODA) in addressing the technological gap between countries.

The Group of the EAEU Member States attaches great importance to the challenges of innovative development. The digital agenda has taken its rightful place among the priorities of further integration building of our Union. Currently, within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Commission, regulatory initiatives are
being developed in such areas as e-commerce, digital transport corridors, digital traceability, digital industrial cooperation, digital technology transfer, interoperability and data flows, digital infrastructure and security.

We are consistent supporters of strengthening the mandate of UNCTAD in the field of digital economy and innovative development. This is reflected in our position papers for UNCTAD-15.

Industry 4.0 and the leap in the development of digital technology create new innovative markets and, as a result, the space for developing the regulatory framework. National regulatory institutions are not always able to respond adequately and timely to ongoing market changes. And in this domain, in our opinion, the leading role of UNCTAD as a think tank for the analysis of international practices and the development of appropriate policy recommendations is warranted.

Thank you for attention.