

**Excellency, Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi, President of the Trade and Development Board,  
Madame Isabelle Durant, Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director of the Division on Africa, least developed countries and special  
programme,  
Madame Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division Technology and Logistics,**

**Madame President,**

I am delivering this statement on behalf of my ambassador who didn't make it due to other engagement. While I am taking the floor for the first time, I would like to join those who congratulated, you for assuming the Presidency of this 68<sup>th</sup> session of the TDB and the way you leading our meeting. At the outset, let me also associate myself with the statements made by Afghanistan on behalf of G77 & China, Botswana on behalf of the African Group and Zambia on behalf of the LDCs since the start of the meeting.

My delegation would like to thank Acting Secretary-General Isabelle Durant, for her comprehensive report of the performance of UNCTAD and also would like to appreciate and commend the Secretariat for the comprehensive statistical report on the impact of COVID-19, the process towards LDC5 conference, on activities in support of Africa undertaken by UNCTAD and on Science Technology and development. The reports demonstrate UNCTAD's effort and interrelated approaches in supporting Africa in general and the LDCs in particular in addressing their challenges.

**Madame President,**

The work of UNCTAD in supporting LDCs in their efforts in reducing poverty through Transforming their economies and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its support since the emergence of COVID-19 is commendable. While the national development priorities are set by ourselves, the technical means of tackling with the complexities of development in the present context need to be further supported.

Technology can save time that takes to produce goods and technologically supported produce are of high quality and will be competitive at the global market. Technology contributes to the efficiency of businesses improving production capacity, quality and quantity. Ethiopia's ambitious development plans have propelled the country to become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The country's progress in technological learning and innovation has been supported by UNCTAD. The technology and innovation policy (STIP) review of the country had underpinned the country's future progress in sustainable development and supporting structural economic transformation. However, the need to narrow the digital gap is still wide.

In this regard, we need capacity-building programs to strengthen and upgrade our productive capacity to design and enact policies aiming at the development and structural transformation of our economies, we believe that there is a huge task ahead of UNCTAD in designing implementable programs and projects to be approved in the upcoming UNCTAD15 and LDC5 processes and we are sure that UNCTAD will carry on successfully its task as usual.

**I thank you, Madame President.**