

**Statement by the EAEU Group**  
**at the 71<sup>st</sup> execution session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD**  
*Geneva, 10-11 and 16-18 February 2022*

Agenda item 2 - Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world

Dear Ms. President,

Dear Ms. Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Dear colleagues!

We are grateful to the Secretariat for preparing the Anniversary Trade and Development Report. In our opinion, this is one of the most important documents of UNCTAD, which in a comprehensive and focused manner addresses the key tasks related to the post-pandemic recovery of the global economy.

The report correctly identifies the main risk factors, including rising inequalities, both between and within countries. Recovery is uneven, which is explained, among other things, by the disparate fiscal and financial capabilities of developed and developing countries. It is also undeniable that the wealth divide of the last four decades has probably even intensified, with digital and financial asset owners benefiting the most from the recovery.

The negative impact of the pandemic on the global socio-economic situation, exacerbated by the growth of protectionism, trade conflicts, geopolitical tensions, deprive entire countries and their peoples of the opportunity to exercise their inalienable rights to a decent life and choose their own model of socio-economic development, undermine the fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda “not to leave no one behind” as the basis for achieving sustainable development. All this together led to a recession, economic stagnation and a change in the world trade and economic system. The current situation requires the adoption of urgent measures aimed at overcoming the negative consequences.

We agree with the authors of the report that effectively overcoming the crisis is possible only through collective efforts based on the principles of economic

solidarity and multilateralism, on the basis of the collective approaches to solving global economic problems and with the strong political will of national leaders. We need a new development paradigm, the formation of new coordination mechanisms with more active and fair participation in solving global economic issues of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In this regard, we are not ready to fully agree with the overly optimistic conclusion of the report that 2021 could mark the emergence of a more equitable and resilient global economy, able to withstand stacking shocks and crises and based on a new consensus on the balance of interests between states, markets, society and environment. In our opinion, in order to achieve this, there is still a lot to be done.

We share the concern of the authors of the report about the increased risks of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) in the context of insufficient global economic growth and the aggravated debt problem of developing countries. Indeed, if the world economy continues to grow at the pace of the early 2000s (about 3.5% per year), then it will return to its pre-pandemic development trend only by 2030. At the same time, already in 2017–2019, global growth was insufficient to achieve the SDGs. As for the sovereign debt of developing countries, these countries will have to spend almost \$1 trillion just to service it by 2030, which is a significant share of the financial resources vital to achieving the SDGs.

We note the attention paid by UNCTAD to the problems of the "green transition". It is important that this topic is treated in the report through the developmental lens and in relation to the need to develop new national strategies for structural transformation in the context of climate constraints. We support the message of the report that the success of such a transformation is due to the effective role of the state in the comprehensive solution of issues on the climate agenda.

In our opinion, it is necessary to minimize the costs of transition to a low-carbon economy for developing and transit countries. In this regard, the

recommendations of the report on facilitating the transfer of green technologies and providing climate finance to interested countries are relevant. We fully share the global goals and objectives to achieve sustainable development, decarbonize the global economy and transition to low-carbon development. At the same time, we believe that such goals should not impede international trade flows. Therefore, it is important to ensure the interface between trade and environmental policies, based on mutually agreed multilateral rules and economic norms.

In order to ensure conditions for the economic well-being of the EAEU member states, the Statement on Economic Cooperation of the EAEU Member States within the framework of the climate agenda was adopted in October 2021. We are confident that economic cooperation between our countries within the framework of the climate agenda will be an important contribution to international efforts to combat climate change and ensure sustainable development. An appropriate High-level Working Group has been created, which will assist the EAEU member states in interaction in the field of the carbon agenda. Active work is already underway to develop common approaches to prevent barriers to trade between the EAEU countries, including mutual international recognition of the mechanisms for the circulation of carbon units formed as a result of the implementation of climate projects, as well as systems for confirming the origin of electrical energy.

In conclusion, as a recommendation, we would like to express the interest of our Group in a more active use of the expertise and analytical potential of UNCTAD in the research of the regional aspects of the global climate agenda, identification of the main problems, approaches and best practices in this area at the level of individual integration associations and assistance in establishing inter-integration dialogue on this topic at the UNCTAD platform, as reflected in the Bridgetown Covenant.

Thank you.