

**GRULAC UNCTAD
G E N E V A**

**Statement by the Delegation of Mexico,
Coordinator of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
at the 71st session of the Trade and Development Board**

Geneva, 11 February 2022

President of the Trade and Development Board, H.E. Ms. Maimuna Kibenga Tarishi (Tanzania)
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynsan,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Madame President, it is an honour for Mexico to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group.

1. The delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean welcome the reports that have been produced by UNCTAD and will be the basis for our discussions during this session. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Secretariat in organizing this session of the Trade and Development Board.
2. The Trade and Development report of 2021 contains in its introduction a paragraph with hard but relevant questions for our times on the likely path of post-Covid recovery and whether there is a new global political economic consensus.
3. One of these questions says: can a new way towards a fairer, balanced, resilient and climate-conscious development be found in the policy space opened by the pandemic?
4. No easy answers can be shaped when we are confronting stringent limitations in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. As the GRULAC mentioned earlier this week, we support the pledge made in the Bridgetown Covenant to secure an inclusive global recovery from the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are still facing important obstacles in the region. Equal access to vaccines, the disruption of trade and finance, increasing debt and rising inflation. The accumulation of factors plus the deepening economic and social divisions, place the so awaited recovery phase into peril.
5. Again, no easy answers can be found. We have mentioned and acknowledge the problems and obstacles in front of us, but we also have our commitment for action. The 2030 Development Agenda and an energy efficient economy are our benchmarks. Our trust in multilateralism and the implementation of our pledges contained in the Bridgetown Covenant, with the help of UNCTAD, is a good plan to work on this recovery.
6. The GRULAC region recognizes the value and relevance of the discussions ahead in this Trade and Development Board session, and stands ready to participate and reach agreements with all groups and delegations.

I thank you, Madam President.