

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE SEVENTY-FIRST
EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
BOARD.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD, MS. REBECCA GRYNSPAN

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD, MADAME
ISABELLE DURANT,

PRESIDENT OF THE TDB, AMBASSADOR/PERM REP OF THE
PERM MISSION OF TANZANIA TO UNOG,

EXCELLENCIES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Nigerian delegation wishes to begin with hbvbjdue congratulations to Ambassador Tarishi, on her re-election as the President of the Trade and Development Board and to wish her a very successful tenure.

Madam President,

The 71st Session of the Board is coming at a time our world has continued to grapple with the effects of the pandemic with unequal access to COVID -19 vaccines. We are also among other things, confronted with climate emergency and other unprecedented challenges faced by developing nations. It is equally significant for the Group, as it gears up for the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant adopted at the XV UNCTAD quadrennial conference on the road map to transform economies through economic diversification, to address the unsustainable debt burdens on developing countries.

Indeed, a number of developing countries are under vaccinated, while numerous developed nations are now on their third and fourth booster shots. As has been variously demonstrated, this, pandemic can only be over, when it is over everywhere!

Madam President,

The Bridgetown document offers us a unique opportunity to change the focus in the work of UNCTAD, as the major voice of the global South. We should, at this point, focus on tangible solutions to boost growth in developing nations such as addressing infrastructural deficits, provision for financing for trade and development, supporting MSME's and Micro businesses as well as reminding ourselves of the huge digital divide between developed and developing countries. It is in doing this that we will begin to transform multilateralism through technical assistance to vulnerable societies and those that need it most. Indeed, there is the overarching need for us to support pro development policies that are pro-development and those that give nations space to pursue development at their own pace as building blocks for the 'building back better' mantra.

Madam President,

The delegation of Nigeria wishes to reiterate once more, our commitment to the Board and to renew commitment to a successful outcome of the 71st Executive Session and the road map towards the implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant.

I thank you for your kind attention!