

Statement by the delegation of Armenia
14 September 2026

Madam Vice-President,
Distinguished Acting Secretary General,
Excellencies,

We would like to start by warmly congratulating Ambassador Fancy Too of Kenya on her election as the President of the Board. We also thank the outgoing President Ambassador José R. Sánchez-Fung of Dominican Republic for his able leadership of the Board.

We also thank Acting Secretary General Pedro Manuel Moreno for his opening remarks and presentation of UNCTAD's annual report, and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the session.

Madam Vice-President,

The geopolitical and geoeconomic confrontations are resulting in disruptions and reshoring of supply chains, and the multiple crises of the multilateral system are negatively affecting the development trajectories of developing countries.

At the same time, the growth of digital economy, AI and advanced technologies, as well as knowledge-based services create new opportunities, specifically for countries in special situations, and particularly landlocked developing countries.

The adoption of the Geneva Consensus reconfirmed UNCTAD's role as a key forum for dialogue, consensus-building, research and analysis and technical cooperation on trade and development, as well as interrelated issues in such areas as finance, investment, technology and sustainable development.

UNCTAD with its renewed mandate, technical assistance and capacity building tools, is uniquely positioned to support States in addressing the challenges they face on their development path, and we call on UNCTAD to continue contributing to the enhancement of the capacities of its members, particularly, developing countries, to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies. At the same time, we believe that enabling domestic business and investment environment, enhanced transparency, good governance and effective policy execution are equally crucial.

Madam Vice-President,

Landlocked developing countries continue to face pressing infrastructure challenges due to geographical constraints, which impede their ability to fully integrate into global trade, diversify economies and attract much needed investments.

The 2026 World Investment Report showed that the FDI flows to structurally weak and vulnerable economies, such as landlocked developing countries, continued to be limited, volatile and highly concentrated, and at levels that are far below their development needs. As a landlocked developing country, Armenia is concerned with this trend.

The Awaza Programme of Action, which is among global frameworks included in the Geneva Consensus, provides a clear and forward-looking roadmap with a comprehensive set of steps, commitments and deliverables, and serves a platform to advance concrete pathways toward resilience, enhanced connectivity, and inclusive growth while reaffirming the commitment to renewed and stronger cooperation to overcoming the multifaceted challenges of landlockedness.

Madam Vice-President,

Connectivity constraints, lack of natural resources, conflicts and geopolitical differences have been impacting Armenia's socio-economic life for three decades. Establishment of peace in the region has created a convenient environment for unlocking the trade and transit potential of the South Caucasus.

Durable economic growth is best supported through an enabling business environment, democratic institutions, rules-based economic governance and mutually beneficial partnerships between governments and the private sector. This understanding is at the heart of the Doctrine for economic and institutional transformation of Armenia, adopted by the Government in January this year.

This development framework sets out a new paradigm for Armenia's economy, where trade, investment, entrepreneurship and innovation serve as key drivers of long-term economic growth, resilience and prosperity. Whereas, the connectivity agenda of the Government of Armenia, and particularly regional connectivity initiatives, including TRIPP, the Crossroads of Peace initiative, the North-South Transport Corridor and the planned Gyumri Dry Port, have the potential to transform Armenia into an important regional transit and logistics hub.

This ambitious strategic programme requires peaceful and stable regional and geopolitical environment, resilience and predictability of international supply chains through diversified transport routes, along with enhanced trade facilitation and digital connectivity.

Armenia is currently actively diversifying its economy and trade. This refers not only to the diversification of traditional trade routes and markets by expanding exports, but also to shifting the economy by countering its historical dependence on mining and agriculture through boosting technologies, supporting local SMEs and moving toward a knowledge and manufacturing-driven economy. And we stand ready to work closely with the UNCTAD, the private sector and all interested partners to advance an inclusive, market-oriented and forward-looking economic agenda based on trade, investment, connectivity and shared prosperity.

Madam Vice-President,

Advancing climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure solutions, that contribute to more efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable trade flows, should remain in the centre of our attention.

In about a month Armenia will host the 17th Conference of Parties to the Biodiversity Convention, which will be held under the motto of "Taking action for nature".

In the Geneva consensus, we have recognized the economic benefits of biodiversity for a sustainable economy and the improvement of livelihoods and emphasized the importance of continuing efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

And the incoming Armenian Presidency has presented a flagship initiative of “Yerevan Call on positive incentives towards biodiversity”, which is aimed at scaling up positive incentives that redirect public and private financial flows towards nature restoration and conservation, thus accelerating the implementation of Kunming-Montreal GBF.

Armenia is looking forward to welcoming all parties to the Convention in Yerevan for the COP17, for the first pivotal stocktaking of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and for continuing our collective efforts to reverse the decline of biodiversity, that invaluable richness that sustains ecosystems, economies, and well-being of our communities.

Thank you.