

Ethiopia

Statement at the 73rd Session of the Trade and Development Board General Debate

- **Madam President of the Trade and Development Board, Ambassador Fancy Chepkemai Too,**
- **Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno,**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election and assure you of Ethiopia's full support. I also thank Acting Secretary-General Mr. Moreno for his comprehensive remarks.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China, Egypt on behalf of the African Group, and Nepal on behalf of the LDCs.

Madam President,

We meet less than a year after UNCTAD-16, where Member States adopted the **Geneva Consensus for a Just and Sustainable Economic Order**. Ethiopia commends UNCTAD's efforts to implement this outcome and looks to this Board to translate our commitments into concrete and measurable support for developing countries, particularly LDCs.

The global economic environment remains challenging. Slowing growth, trade policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions and high financing costs continue to constrain developing economies. For Ethiopia, a predictable, open, rules-based and development-oriented multilateral system is therefore more important than ever.

Against this backdrop, Ethiopia is advancing its **Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda** to build a more productive, competitive, diversified and resilient economy. Over the past eight years, we have undertaken fundamental reforms, including reforming State-Owned Enterprises, opening telecommunications and trading sectors, establishing capital-market institutions, liberalizing financial services and transforming the foreign-exchange regime. We are also strengthening agriculture, manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, logistics and digital transformation.

We welcome UNCTAD's recognition of Ethiopia's recent investment-liberalization measures, including in financial services, and its identification of opportunities in **agro-processing and agricultural inputs**. These developments reinforce our objective of moving from primary production towards value addition, productive investment and regional value chains.

Madam President,

Connectivity and regional integration are central to our transformation. Efficient ports, corridors, logistics, digital infrastructure and trade facilitation are essential to connecting our producers with regional and global markets. Ethiopia therefore attaches great importance to the **AfCFTA** as an instrument for expanding markets, building regional value chains and advancing Africa's industrial transformation.

We also appreciate UNCTAD's work on digital technologies and MSMEs, including its Ethiopia-focused study, and its capacity-building engagement in Addis Ababa on digital technologies under the AfCFTA. We are implementing **Digital Ethiopia 2030** to expand inclusive digital access, empower people and institutions, and position Ethiopia for digital investment and ICT-enabled exports.

Ethiopia's **WTO accession has reached an advanced and decisive stage**, and we remain committed to concluding this longstanding process in the nearest possible time. We greatly appreciate UNCTAD's legal and technical support for our revised market-access offer in financial and telecommunications services under the GATS.

We further appreciate UNCTAD's practical cooperation with the Ethiopian Investment Commission, including support for developing bankable energy-transition projects and facilitating Ethiopia's investment showcase in Xiamen, China.

We welcome deeper cooperation in investment promotion, project preparation, sustainable finance and development finance.

Madam President,

Ethiopia's experience demonstrates that domestic reforms must be complemented by a supportive international economic and financial environment. We therefore call for more predictable, affordable and accessible development finance, greater fiscal space and stronger support for productive investment, infrastructure, human capital, digital connectivity and climate resilience.

We look to UNCTAD to continue bridging research and policy, investment and development, and trade and productive capacity. For Ethiopia, we see particular scope to deepen cooperation in four areas.

First, structural transformation and export diversification, including value addition in agriculture, manufacturing, services and emerging digital sectors, with a view to strengthening productive capacity, employment and participation in regional and global value chains.

Second, investment policy and facilitation, to ensure that domestic and foreign investment contributes more effectively to technology transfer, productive employment, export diversification and sustainable development.

Ethiopia's recent opening of additional sectors to foreign investment reflects our commitment to expanding private-sector participation and creating a more dynamic investment environment.

Third, regional and global trade integration, including continued support for Ethiopia's WTO accession and post-accession process, as well as effective implementation of the AfCFTA and the development of regional value chains.

Fourth, digital trade and trade facilitation, including competition and consumer protection, with particular attention to enabling MSMEs, women and young entrepreneurs to participate more effectively in the digital and regional economy.

We value UNCTAD's analytical, policy and technical support in these areas and look forward to strengthening our partnership to translate trade and investment into greater productive capacity, diversification and inclusive development in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia remains committed to working constructively with UNCTAD and all Member States to advance a more inclusive, resilient and development-oriented global economic order.

I thank you.