

**Madame President,
Ambassador Fancy Chepkemai Too,**

Acting Secretary-General, Pedro Moreno

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Geopolitical tensions, fragmented markets and disruptions to trade routes are putting renewed pressure on developing countries. The recent disruptions affecting the Strait of Hormuz and territories in the Red Sea are a clear reminder of the close links between energy, food security, transport and development.

Their consequences are particularly severe for those with the least capacity to absorb higher prices, disrupted supply chains and restricted access to finance. They underline the need for coordinated action, open and predictable trade, and stronger international support for resilience.

Portugal reaffirms its strong support for an effective, rules-based multilateral system as an essential foundation for sustainable development. At a time of growing geopolitical tension, international cooperation is not an option, but a must. UN Trade and Development has a distinct and valuable role in helping developing countries participate more effectively and equitably in the global economy, and in harnessing trade, investment, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

We welcome progress in implementing the Geneva Consensus. The focus must now be on delivery: translating commitments into practical technical assistance, policy support and partnerships adapted to national circumstances.

Trade must remain a central instrument for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Portugal attaches particular importance to the needs of least developed countries, small island developing States and vulnerable middle-income countries. Strengthening productive capacities, value addition and economic diversification is essential to reduce vulnerabilities, create sustainable employment and build resilience.

We should also ensure that smaller enterprises are not left behind. SMEs are often the first to suffer from supply-chain disruptions, rising transport costs and restricted access to finance. Strengthening their capacity to participate in international trade is therefore essential for both growth and resilience.

The green transition should be a driver of growth and development, creating opportunities for investment, innovation and quality jobs. Developing countries must be supported in adapting to new sustainability requirements and in accessing climate finance, technology and technical assistance. Trade policies should contribute to environmental sustainability while ensuring that the transition is just and inclusive.

Portugal welcomes UN Trade and Development's continued work on trade and development, investment, debt sustainability, climate change, and the digital and blue economies. We particularly value its technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, including its work with Portuguese-speaking developing countries.

The Seville Commitment recognizes capacity-building and technical cooperation as fundamental pillars for sustainable development. Through bilateral and triangular cooperation, Portugal supports locally owned programmes that strengthen institutional capacity, public

financial management and strategic debt management in our partner countries, especially Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste.

These efforts include support to strengthen budgetary frameworks, improve oversight of public enterprises, and promote transparent and efficient financial systems. They are designed to expand fiscal space, support economic diversification and foster inclusive growth aligned with national development priorities.

Portugal has also supported UN Trade and Development initiatives on trade-related capacity-building, competition and consumer protection, economic governance and digital transformation. These partnerships reflect our conviction that development must be locally owned, context-specific and future-oriented.

The ocean economy is an important avenue for sustainable development, especially for coastal States and SIDS. Portugal values UN Trade and Development's work in this area. Sustainable fisheries, marine and coastal tourism, and emerging blue-economy sectors can generate livelihoods and investment, provided they rest on sound governance, environmental protection and fair access to markets and finance.

Portugal will continue to promote this agenda through the Geneva Nexus, connecting trade, oceans, health, food security, climate and biodiversity, and turning dialogue into practical partnerships in support of SDG 14 and in the lead-up to the fourth United Nations Ocean Conference, to be held in 2028.

As Portugal prepares to assume its responsibilities as a non-permanent member of the Security Council 2027-2028, we will remain firmly committed to advancing effective multilateralism, preventive

diplomacy and sustainable development. Peace, security and development are inseparable.

Following the motto of our campaign, “Prevent, Partner, Protect”, Portugal stands ready to work with all partners towards a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

Thank you.