



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

REMARKS BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA IN GENEVA

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8

AT THE

73RD SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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[Please check against delivery]

Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Uganda aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China and the Least Developed Countries Group under this agenda item.

We thank the UNCTAD Secretariat for the report and for its continued work in support of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, which is a critical roadmap in support of LDCs.

Uganda believes that implementation of the Programme must increasingly translate into practical support at the national level. Particular attention should be given to strengthening productive sectors, expanding opportunities for value addition, improving competitiveness and enabling LDCs to participate more meaningfully in regional and global markets.

For Uganda, this is especially relevant as we progress through the process towards graduation from the LDC category. UNCTAD has been valuable on this journey.

In the recent period, UNCTAD has conducted an inception mission and worked alongside the Government of Uganda and the UN Resident Coordinators office to develop and validate the Vulnerability Profile of Uganda.

The Validation Workshop last week provided an important opportunity for national stakeholders to consider the findings and recommendations of the Profile and assess the vulnerabilities that will need to be addressed as Uganda advances through the graduation process.

This engagement forms part of UNCTAD's broader technical support to Uganda in our graduation process. We commend it for this support and look forward to continued engagement with UNCTAD as the process advances.

Our graduation process also reinforces the importance of looking beyond the achievement of graduation criteria. Countries approaching graduation require sufficient preparation to address remaining vulnerabilities and to preserve development gains after leaving the LDC category. Continued international support during this period is therefore essential.

Uganda further emphasizes the importance of strengthening the productive capacities of LDCs. Greater investment in infrastructure, technology, skills and productive sectors will be necessary if LDCs are to diversify their economies, add greater value to their exports and generate sustainable employment.

We also believe that international trade must play a greater role in this transformation. LDCs require improved market opportunities and stronger capacity to produce and export competitive products and services. Support under the Doha Programme of Action should therefore contribute to enabling LDCs to move progressively towards higher-value production and a more diversified participation in international trade.

Uganda recognizes the important role of UNCTAD's technical cooperation in supporting these efforts. For this work to respond effectively to the growing needs of LDCs, it requires adequate and predictable resources. We encourage development partners to continue supporting UNCTAD's programmes for LDCs, particularly those directed towards productive capacity development and smooth transition from the LDC category.

Uganda remains committed to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and looks forward to continued cooperation with UNCTAD and our development partners to ensure that progress by LDCs is accompanied by stronger economies, greater resilience and tangible improvements in the lives of our people.

I thank you.