

**GRULAC UNCTAD
G E N E V A**

**Statement by the Delegation of Guatemala on behalf of the
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
at the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, Fourth session**

Geneva, 25-27 January 2021

Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, H.E. Ambassador Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mrs. Isabelle Durant,
Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Mr Abderrahim Ait Slimane,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman, it is an honour for Guatemala to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group.

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat of UNCTAD for the organization of this meeting in spite the difficulties presented by the Covid-19 Pandemic; for the preparation of the background note for this session; and for the inclusion of distinguished panellists representing the GRULAC region in the Programme.
2. The Group highlights the importance of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the continued involvement and support of UNCTAD on the issues of Financing for Development.
3. During this meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, we will be addressing systemic issues of great relevance to developing countries, and in particular to commodity-depending developing countries whose economies and production patterns have been severely affected by financialization. The Secretariat's document highlights the main risks of financialization, in particular: bank consolidations that resulted in too-big-to-fail mega banks; lack of regulation for shadow banking activities; high level of volatility of net private capital flows to developing countries, highly influenced by private credit rating agencies; among others.
4. The Group concurs with the fact that systemic issues require systemic responses; and that multilateralism can be a tool to undermine the systemic problems that the world and in particular developing countries are facing. As the Secretariat's note suggests, we look forward to further discuss recommendations of different areas where multilateralism may provide solutions, in particular: building resilience to systemic issues, promotion of multilateral coordination for the role of damage limitation; improvement and reform of the system of global economic governance; enhanced multilateral coordination of national policy efforts to boost domestic and external markets; and multilateral coordination to boost international development finance and strengthen support to developing countries in mobilizing domestic resources for this purpose.
5. The Group would also like to highlight the importance of discussing solutions and coordinated efforts to solve unsustainable external debt situations and to promote debt crisis resolutions that allow growth prospects and improved debt sustainability in developing countries.
6. In the current context of the pandemic, the group welcomes initiatives such as the UN initiative for financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, co-convened by Canada, Jamaica and the United Nations, that provide policy proposals and options for countries struggling to overcome liquidity crisis and sovereign defaults.
