

**Statement delivered by Barbados on the occasion of the Sixty-seventh Executive Session  
of the Trade and Development Board**

**4-6 February 2019**

**Agenda Item 6: Report of the Second Session of the Inter-Governmental Group of  
Expert (IGE) on Financing for Development (FfD)**

Mr. President, Ambassador Salim Baddoura,  
Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

In reflecting on our work today and that which is ahead we took the time to pause to reflect on or past work, particularly as we look at our precarious situation in the global sphere.

Mr Chairman, although it may be small compared to what we must currently overcome, we note that one of the marked outcomes of the of the fourteenth conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD14) was our agreement to establish two new intergovernmental expert groups – one to look at issues related to electronic commerce and the other to examine issues related to financing for development. These are two examples of how we in Geneva in the recent past have not only delivered on multilateralism but also on two issues where if left unattended by an organization such as UNCTAD could see us reneging on our commitment to prosperity for all, or in other words leaving no one behind.

It was therefore a distinct pleasure for me have participated in the second session of the intergovernmental expert group on financing for development which focused on issues of critical import to Barbados - the middle-income trap, environmental vulnerability and sovereign debt sustainability. We are particularly pleased to have negotiated and agreed to the rich recommendations which will be presented before this session of the Trade and Development Board for adoption.

The deliberations in that session confirmed our belief and that of other SIDS in UNCTAD that the issues of debt, vulnerability - particularly our environmental vulnerability, places small island developing states in a uniquely precarious circumstance in terms of the achievement of our sustainable development and in many instances our future existence.

Mister Chairman, we therefore reiterate our support for the agreed recommendations, particularly those related to the circumstances of SIDS and look forward to adopting the report which emerged from the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.

I thank you Mister Chairman.