

**STATEMENT BY THE KENYA DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM 7: ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY UNCTAD IN SUPPORT OF AFRICA DURING THE SIXTY-EIGHTH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2019**

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**Mdm. President**

**Director for Africa and Least Developed Countries Division**

**Excellences**

**Distinguished delegates**

The Kenya delegation aligns with the statements delivered by the representatives of Ecuador and Togo on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group, respectively.

Kenya welcomes with appreciation, UNCTAD's Report on activities in support of Africa for several reasons: First, Africa is lagging behind in a number of socio-economic development indicators with low participation in global economy and trade. Hence, the need to boost Africa's capacities. Second, the Nairobi Maafikiano, paragraph 10 (b) calls upon UNCTAD to continue supporting Africa to address its special concerns and needs. UNCTAD Secretariat's activities in support of Africa are well within its mandate.

The Kenya delegation further appreciates that UNCTAD's activities in support of Africa's development are on the increase. During the period under review, a number of activities were initiated and undertaken within the purview of UNCTAD's three pillars of research and policy analysis, consensus building and technical assistance. The activities which focus on Africa-wide initiatives or groups of countries or individual countries have been critical in enhancing awareness, policy review and sharing of experiences.

Notable activities for transforming African economies, including support for the negotiations and finalization on the AfCFTA, tackling vulnerabilities and building resilience of African economies, improving competitiveness, among others, will uplift the continent to be able to ultimately participate in regional and global value chains.

**Mdm. President**

Kenya delegation further expresses deep appreciation to UNCTAD Secretariat, in particular, for support and collaboration with Kenya in a number of areas, among them, initiating a project on the services trade, support for the national trade facilitation committee, investment promotion and business facilitation that included the development of trade information portal as well as, accounting and corporate reporting standards. The ongoing efforts to establish an Empretec centre in Kenya are welcome.

As part of Kenya's collaboration with UNCTAD, Kenya Government jointly with UNCTAD hosted the first e-commerce week for Africa from 10-14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was an important conference whose outcome, the Nairobi Manifesto on the Digital Economy and Inclusive Development in Africa provides informed policy guidance to many of our countries. On the sidelines of the Conference, UNCTAD organized a Ministerial Forum for the EAC trade ministers on trade facilitation, a forum that was positively received. We thank UNCTAD for this support.

**Mdm. President**

In conclusion, Kenya looks forward to continued and strengthened collaboration and partnership with UNCTAD and other partners in an endeavor to achieve structural transformation in Africa for the achievement of global Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063.

**I thank you.**