

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE 68TH EXECUTIVE
SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF UNCTAD, GENEVA, 2ND OCTOBER, 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY
UNCTAD IN SUPPORT OF AFRICA**

**Mr. President,
Secretary General of UNCTAD,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my honour to present this statement on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We align with the statement delivered the Representative of Togo on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

2. May I express our profound appreciation to the Division of Africa and LDC and its Director, Mr. Paul Akiwumi and the entire UNCTAD Secretariat not only for the preparation and presentation of this report but for all the work done over the past year in support of the

economic development of our continent. Some of these include:

(i) Transforming African Economies through :Building productive capacities,building capacities in industrial policy making and trade in services, providing technical assistance in trade-in-services statistics, promoting services exports and reviewing services policies; deepening regional integration and trade for structural transformation etc.

(ii). Tackling the vulnerabilities of economies in Africa and building their resilience by promoting economic diversification and linkages

(iii) Improving competitiveness in African economies by strengthening the capacities of competition authorities and improving legislative and policy frameworks on competition and consumer protection

(iv). Empowering Africans and investing in their future by building capacities of port officials through Train for Trade programme

3. More notably the assistance of UNCTAD in midwifing the AcFTA and activities towards the curbing of illicit financial flows out of Africa is invaluable.

4. The Nigerian delegation really appreciate the work of UNCTAD in these areas, much more, as Nigeria has benefited from some of them. We would like to use this opportunity to call on UNCTAD to accelerate work on the request of Nigeria for an ICT Policy Review on Digital Economy Strategy for Nigeria. This is very important for us to achieve our vision of becoming the digital capital of Africa.

5, We also wish to thank other regional groups here in UNCTAD (the EU, GRULAC, ASIAN, Arab, LDC groups,) and donor countries and other development partners for their support for the work of UNCTAD in Africa.

Mr President

6. We call on the Secretary General of UNCTAD to ensure that the Division on Africa and LDC is provided more resources so as to be able to undertake its responsibilities in the most efficient manner. These can be done by increasing the personnel of the African Division

through reassignment of some professional staff to the Division.

7. I thank you.