

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, H. E. AMBASSADOR TAONGA  
MUSHAYAVANHU, 68<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE SESSION OF UNCTAD TDB: 2  
OCTOBER 2019: AGENDA ITEM 7, ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY  
UNCTAD IN SUPPORT OF AFRICA**

Mr President,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General, Dr. Kituyi for the comprehensive and informative report updating us on "Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa."

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statements made by Ecuador and Togo, on behalf of the G77 and China, and the African Group, respectively.

Mr President,

Africa continues to face tremendous developmental challenges and lags behind in efforts to meet the 2030 Development Agenda. With the impact of climate change manifesting in increased droughts and never before experienced disasters, the scale and magnitude of vulnerabilities is increasing and core economic drivers are being weakened. Further, illegal capital flight and trade under the radar are shrinking governments' tax bases thus constraining their room for manoeuvre. It is in this light that we appreciate UNCTAD's role in supporting our development efforts through various activities under its broad mandate.

Given our role as the focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development, and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development in the United Nations, we continue to expect UNCTAD to play a crucial supportive role in the implementation of the global development agenda, especially as it relates to the African region.

Mr President,

We welcome UNCTAD activities designed at advancing the structural transformation of African economies, with industrialization and the enhancement of productive capacity at the centre. This is essential in ensuring that the benefits of a single African market are widely enjoyed. We also value UNCTAD's assistance towards the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

We appreciate the continued dialogue on illicit trade and illicit financial flows and hope that with the assistance of partners, Africa would be able to develop its capacities to curb illicit trade, and to track, stop and repatriate funds illegally transferred.

Mr. President, we express our appreciation for UNCTAD's work in entrepreneurship policy formulation, economic diversification, as well as in building SME competitiveness through technical assistance and advisory services. UNCTAD's assistance to Africa in the area of investment and enterprise development, including through its EMPRETEC programme is also appreciated.

Lastly, we welcome the completion of e-trade readiness assessments in 7 landlocked African LDCs and hope that the scope would be expanded to other developing countries, including Zimbabwe.

I thank you