

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to WTO
on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
at the 70th Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board**

Geneva, 3-5 February 2021

Opening Statement

Wednesday, 3 February (morning session)

President of the Trade and Development Board, H.E. Ambassador Federico Villegas,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman, it is an honour for Guatemala to deliver this statement on behalf of GRULAC.

1. GRULAC would like to thank Secretary-General Kituyi for his opening remarks and take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kituyi for his hard work and leadership as head of UNCTAD Secretariat.
2. While GRULAC regrets the Secretary-General's departure, it nevertheless would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavours. During his tenure and through his good offices, UNCTAD XV will take place in the GRULAC region, in Barbados. GRULAC hopes that this historical event will mark a brighter future for UNCTAD.
3. The Group would also like to highlight the organization of two Raul Prebisch Lectures that allowed two GRULAC leaders: Mr. Rafael Correa, President of Ecuador, in 2014; and Mrs. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, in 2019; to share their views on global issues such as development, technology and innovation and education, among other important topics of UNCTAD's interests.
4. Mr. Kituyi also travelled and visited more than eleven GRULAC countries, during which he could meet with Heads of State, Ministers and other authorities to get first-hand information about the needs of, and projects in the Region.
5. The Group also would like to acknowledge the important task that Ms. Durant is undertaking as acting Secretary-General during the preparatory process of UNCTAD XV. In this regard, GRULAC would like to reiterate its full support to Ms. Durant and her team in their endeavours to ensure the success of UNCTAD XV.
6. Finally, it is important to note that GRULAC will actively and constructively engage in the selection process of the new Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Following the tradition of regional rotation for the appointment of UNCTAD's Secretary-General, GRULAC looks forward to nominating high profile candidates to ensure that the next Secretary General, from the GRULAC region, continues to make substantial contributions to the work of UNCTAD.
