

**Statement by the Russian Federation on behalf of the EAEU Group
at the 70th executive session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD**

Geneva, 3-5 February 2021

Agenda item 1 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Dear colleagues!

On behalf of the EAEU Group member states, we would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished Dr. M.Kituy for his fruitful work as Secretary General of UNCTAD.

Your leadership of the Organization came during a difficult period associated with the crisis in the global economy, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In these difficult conditions, it was important for UNCTAD not to lose face, to find adequate answers to the acute challenges of our time. It seems to us that the Organization under your leadership as a whole has reached the height of the situation, has coped with the tasks it faced.

We acknowledge your great personal contribution to the preparation and successful holding of the 14th session of UNCTAD, which strengthened the mandate of UNCTAD as an authoritative international organization for trade and development. We hope that the key impulses that the Forum in Nairobi gave to multilateral social and economic cooperation will not only be maintained, but will also be strengthened by the upcoming 15th UNCTAD Conference in Barbados.

We would also like to note your "political testament" - a report to UNCTAD-15. It contains many meaningful and progressive ideas that are in tune with the positions of our group. We have taken on board some key messages and will take them into account in the preparatory process for UNCTAD-15.

In conclusion, let me once again thank you, distinguished Mr. Secretary General, for your commitment to the economic prosperity of developing countries and wish you every success in your future endeavours.