



**STATEMENT BY AMB. MAIMUNA K. TARISHI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN
GENEVA DURING THE 70TH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 3 – 5 FEBRUARY 2021**

**President of the Trade and Development Board, Amb. Federico Villegas,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Isabelle Durant,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his incisive opening remarks and the UNCTAD Secretariat for a comprehensive and very well researched report reflecting the development challenges faced by the LDCs and for emphasizing the imperative for transforming their economies through building productive capacities.

Tanzania wishes to align itself with the statements presented by Botswana on behalf of the Africa Group and Afghanistan on behalf of G77 and China group.

Mr. President,

I would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Kituyi for his leadership and stewardship of the UNCTAD secretariat and his commitment to the development agenda during his

tenure. His tireless efforts and dedication put UNCTAD in a position to impact the broader development discourse. We wish you all the best in your future endeavour.

“ASANTE SANA KWA UTUMISHI ULIOTUKUKA”

Mr. President,

The 2020 LDC Report has come at a time when the world is faced with a crisis that continue to cause widespread human suffering, upending lives, devastating the global economy, and risking reversals of hard-won progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As we continue to strive to recover the global economy from the pandemic, the focus on LDCs is extremely important for effectively achieving the SDGs globally.

We note with grave concern the LDC Report 2020 forecasts that the pandemic will push LDCs in 2020 to their worst economic performance in 30 years, pushing an extra 32 million people back into extreme poverty. Indeed, the situation requires effective international support otherwise this setback will pose critical threat to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this regard, we concur with the 2020 LDCs Report recommendations that bold countercyclical policies are needed to cushion the impact of the pandemic including expansion of fiscal policy, accommodating monetary and exchange rate policies to support domestic resource mobilisation, and sustained and concerted investment push to narrow the infrastructural and technological gaps of LDCs.

My delegation also wishes to highlight the importance of ODA to LDCs in their recovery, which in turn can help in effective realization of the SDGs by 2030. In this context we urge the Developed Countries to make available timely and quality ODA as committed under the SDG 17.

Mr. President,

The Government of Tanzania has a strong commitment to developing domestic productive capacities and transforming the structure of its economy from low to higher

productivity activities within and across sectors. While some progress has been made over the past few decades, manufacturing continues to play a relatively small role in the economy both in terms of its share of output and contribution to exports. To address the challenges in the manufacturing sector, the Government has intensified efforts through various initiatives geared towards boosting manufacturing output and exports, promoting agricultural production, and strengthening intersectoral linkages. It is also in the process of reviewing its trade and industrial strategies with a view to better harnessing the potential of trade for transformation and development.

My delegation appreciates the extensive work carried out by UNCTAD secretariat on the development of Productive Capacity including the ongoing project under the Development Account Project on Coherent Strategies for Productive Capacity Development in African Least Developed Countries of which the United Republic of Tanzania is one of the beneficiary country.

Mr. President,

We urge UNCTAD to continue to support countries to formulate and promote strategies fostering productive capacities and structural transformation in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, relevant international organizations, and other stakeholders, including by matching needs with relevant support mechanisms, and promoting dialogue among countries on their transformational efforts towards the achievement of SDGs.

Mr. President,

As I conclude this statement, ***I can't help but recall the Secretary General's observation that "the LDCs are the battleground on which SDGs will be won or lost"***. To leave no country behind, international action must be coherent and support, rather than hinder, countries' capacity to enact and finance their development strategies, and enable, rather than block, channels through which global wealth can be redistributed. Global rules need to promote an equitable distribution of income and development opportunities at the international level, taking effective action on international cooperation on tax, cross-border financial flows, debt relief and trade; and shifting development cooperation to a more comprehensive and representative

framework that integrates new and traditional providers, in which governance is representative of both donors and recipients. Least developed countries should be prioritized in all the above-mentioned areas.

I THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT.