

**Statement by the Delegation of Guatemala 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

**Agenda Item 3 - Report of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme
Performance on its eighty-first session**

Thursday, 4 February 2021

President of the Trade and Development Board, H.E. Ambassador Federico Villegas,
Chair of the 81st Session of the Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme Performance,
Ms. Cecilia Gutierrez,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. The GRULAC would like to thank the Chair, Ms. Cecilia Gutierrez for her excellent work and leadership during her chairmanship of the Working Party and also acknowledges the work of the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Eighty-first Session of the Working Party, Ms. Charline Van der Beek. Thanks to your commitment and support, the group believes that it was a successful meeting with a very positive outcome.
2. Although the Members did not really have time to discuss the additional documentation provided by the Secretariat, GRULAC would like to note with appreciation the preparation of this information and would like to reiterate the importance of a diversified geographical representation of UNCTADs staff, and encourages the Secretariat to make additional efforts in the selection process of its staff to include more experts from developing countries coming from the different regions of the world, without undermining qualification and skills requirements.
3. GRULAC supports as well the gender balance of UNCTADs staff, and encourages UNCTAD to continue working towards the targets set by UNCTAD`s gender parity implementation plan.
4. The group would also like to encourage UNCTAD to reach out to Universities in the GRULAC region in order to promote an increase of internships that benefit nationals from the region.
