



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE, WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE GAMBIA- H.E AMB.
PROF.MUHAMMADOU M.O.KAH, AT THE 73rd EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD – 13 FEBRUARY 2023

**Item 3 – The Least Developed Countries Report 2022: The Low-Carbon
Transition and Its Daunting Implications for Structural Transformation**

President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Bahtijors
Hasans,

Secretary-General of UNCTAD Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Mr. President

**The Gambia joins our Sister and Excellency Maimuna Kibenga
Tarishi of Tanzania on her conveyed condolences and convey our
heartfelt condolences to our Brothers and Sisters in Turkiye and
Syria and their Diaspora across the world. May Allah SWT Bless
the Souls of the departed with Rahma and Deliver Swift Healing to
the many injured. Ameen,**

Mr. President

The delegation of The Gambia supports the statement of Malawi on
behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the statement
delivered by the Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Group of 77
and China.

We would like to commend the UNCTAD Secretariat for organizing the 73rd Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board and for the report on Item 3 (The Least Developed Countries Report 2022: The Low-Carbon Transition and Its Daunting Implications for Structural Transformation).

Excellencies,

My delegation welcomes this insightful report and note that while the least developed countries contribute the least to climate change, they nevertheless bear the brunt of the climate crisis. The climate change crisis has uneven impacts on affected populations and communities, and LDCs remain the most vulnerable to this situation.

Over the past 50 years, LDCs have accounted for 69% of global deaths caused by climate – related disasters. Therefore, protecting our vulnerable people and communities from the impacts of climate change should remain an important priority alongside our efforts to recover to pre- Covid-19 pandemic levels and our desire to achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals.

Distinguished delegates,

Our delegation welcomes the recommendations for LDCs to adopt better policies and regulatory frameworks, the need to provide more support to LDCs in accessing climate finance and clean technology, and the challenges of the Covid crisis, rising food prices and inadequate institutional capacity affecting LDCs.

The emission – reduction targets set by LDCs are commendable and demonstrates their continued commitment – to achieving in climate-resilient goals by 2050 despite the challenges. As LDCs, we expect a stronger commitment from all by working for the same cause.

Distinguished delegates,

We call on our multilateral systems and our development partners to promote responsible, human centric and impactful investment and trade in LDCs, increase transparency, governance, institutional framework and mechanisms and in access to funds related to climate finance under the Paris Agreement, the UN Conference of the Parties (COP27) on Climate Change, the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022 – 2031, and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development to support the ambitious structural transformation of LDCs.

The Gambia looks forward to new and meaningful collaborations and partnerships to be coupled with predictable, sustainable, pragmatic, innovative, equitable and socially just financing mechanisms as outcomes of the upcoming Least Developed Countries Conference (LDC5) in March 2023 in Doha, Qatar for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for 2022 – 2031.

Mr. President

In closing, we would like to encourage donors and our development partners, in the spirit of the UNCTAD Bridgetown Covenant, to support meaningfully all LDCs, including of those that are on the path to graduation and those that have not yet graduated.

Thank you.