

**Statement by the Delegation of Guatemala on behalf of the  
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean  
at the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Trade and Development Commission**

*Geneva, 17 February 2021*

**Item 3 (a) - Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:**

**(i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development**

Chair of the twelfth Session of the Trade and Development Commission, Ambassador Chad Blackman of Barbados,  
Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, Mrs. Shamika Sirimanne,  
Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade and Commodities, Ms. Teresa Moreira,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chair,

1. GRULAC would like to thank the Chair of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on commodities and development, Ambassador Mrs. Margarida Rosa da Silva Izata from Angola, for her Report.
2. The Group takes note of the data and new trends on commodity markets presented by the Secretariat during the meeting, in particular the data presented on the effects of the covid-19 Pandemic in commodity markets. We note in particular the effects of the pandemic in the prices and availability of basic food products, and highlight the importance of resilient value and distribution chains that ensure the proper distribution of basic food products around the world, and in particular for the poorest regions of the world.
3. The group also would like to note the importance of increasing transparency in commodity markets as a precondition for appropriate governance and accountability. It is clear from the discussion during the meeting that the lack of transparency in commodity markets usually resulted in unethical practices and even corruption that affected developing countries in particular the commodity-dependent ones.
4. The group concurs with the need to include all stakeholders within a value chain to participate and promote transparency, as this effort does not only rely on the commodity exporters but also importing countries, consumers, distributors, multinational companies and civil society. Only through a joint effort will transparency improve in the whole commodity value chain.

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