

**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:**

**(ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services 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 Trade, Services and Development, Ambassador Mr. Alfredo Suescum from Panama, for his Report.

2. The Group recognizes the important contribution of services to our economies, and shares the concerns of the heavy hit that sectors like tourism and aviation services have taken as a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemia. In this sense, GRULAC welcomes support from UNCTAD towards policies and capacity building programmes to support these industries to recover.

3. The group notes that services will play a key role in enhancing economic resilience and recovery in the post-pandemic period, and recognizes the important points raised during the meeting on how leveraging services, including infrastructure services, will give resilience to economic shocks and help in economic recovery.

4. The Group notes the experience shared by Brazil and other countries during the meeting, and notes comments from panellist that highlighted challenges faced by Latin American and the Caribbean countries such as limited broadband Internet in rural areas and the lack of usage of technology and digital tools by MSMEs.

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