



**UNCTAD** 15  
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Agenda item: 7

General debate

Statement by:

**Bahrain**



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



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**Statement by**

**HE Mr. Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani**

**Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**At the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and  
Development**

**Geneva, 3 – 7 October 2021**

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**President of the Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Conference on  
Trade and Development,**

**Secretary-General of UNCTAD Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,**

**Distinguished dignitaries,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am honored to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

I am also greatly honored to convey the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, as well as the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain to H.E. Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the Government, and the people of Barbados, and to commend their commitment to UNCTAD as hosts of this important virtual Conference.

On this occasion, allow me to join others in welcoming the appointment of the new Secretary-General of UNCTAD, H.E. Ms. Rebeca Grynspan.

The Kingdom of Bahrain places a great importance to the effectiveness of ensuring coherence in global economic policies in order to contribute to global and equitable economic development and prosperity. Therefore, the Kingdom of Bahrain renews its support to UNCTAD and will do its utmost to support Ms. Grynspan in her mandate.

I wish you every success, Secretary-General, and look forward to working closely with you and continuing our strong collaboration with UNCTAD.

As we gather here at UNCTAD15 under unique and challenging circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the pivotal role played by UNCTAD in

contributing to a better understanding of how trade and investment foster economic growth, particularly in building back, cannot be understated.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Bahrain prides itself on having undertaken various initiatives through the introduction of a comprehensive US\$11.4bn economic stimulus package to try to minimise the impact of the pandemic on our people and the business community.

We also support the future activities of UNCTAD in the area of investment, in particular the role of Foreign Direct Investment as a key means to promote sustainable development.

Being a traditional free market economy, and liberal trading country, the Kingdom of Bahrain maintains a profound interest in its trade expansion and its investment growth.

In this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain also welcomes the work of UNCTAD in the area of e-commerce and the digital economy.

The past few years have been marked as the most definitive chapter yet in Bahrain's journey to becoming a fully-fledged digital economy, as the Kingdom has continued to invest in its world-class ICT infrastructure and pioneers' regulations that nurture innovation and is seeing digital transformation of key sectors across the board.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

I take this opportunity to renew our delegation's commitment to the success of UNCTAD15 and to a positive and ambitious outcome based on a framework of global coordination and cooperation to achieve positive results in all areas related to trade and sustainable development.

Before I conclude, Madame President, allow me once again to express our gratitude for your able guidance in leading the UNCTAD15 Conference, and to the Government and People of Barbados for their continued commitment and support to this institution.

**Thank you, Madame President.**