



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Mauritius



Statement of the Republic of Mauritius – General Debate UNCTAD, 21 October
2025

Madam President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Mauritius aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I would also like to express our appreciation to Switzerland as host country for our meeting.

The theme of this Conference — “Shaping the future: driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development” — captures our shared ambition. Mauritius reaffirms its full commitment to sustainable development and inclusive prosperity.

We meet at a challenging moment. Global economic fragmentation is growing. Official development assistance has declined. Geopolitical crises have multiplied. Vulnerabilities across the developing world — and especially among Small Island Developing States — have deepened.

The global economy continues to grapple with sluggish growth, elevated debt burdens, and unequal access to technology and finance, while heightened tensions continue to erode trust in multilateralism.

Mauritius welcomes UNCTAD 16 as an opportunity to bring coherence to our collective response. The Conference follows recent global milestones — including UN 80, the Pact for the Future, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, the Sevilla outcome on Financing for Development, and ongoing work on a UN framework for international tax cooperation — which together reinforce an implementation focus on structural vulnerabilities, debt sustainability and climate resilience.

In these trying times, UNCTAD's role and pertinence as an intergovernmental instrument is particularly relevant. UNCTAD's commitment and legacy in assisting developing countries remains indispensable to turn these frameworks into practical outcomes.

SIDS resilience and climate finance

We call for the UNCTAD and the multilateral system to pay more attention to the difficulties of SIDS integrating the world economy.

As a SIDS, Mauritius is disproportionately exposed to climate change, external shocks and the volatility of international markets. We therefore underline the need for tailored climate finance and practical debt solutions — including debt-for-climate swaps and climate-resilient debt instruments — to safeguard our economies and societies.

The urgency of predictable, accessible and concessional finance cannot be overstated as climate-related disasters intensify. In this context, we note the evolving work on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance and

the importance of aligning debt treatment with adaptation imperatives. In that regard, we welcome the July 2025 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal obligation of all States to prevent and mitigate climate action. The economic dimension of climate change cannot be underestimated.

Mauritius welcomes the convening of a dedicated Ministerial Meeting on Small Island Developing States, which provides an important platform to highlight our specific challenges and to chart actionable pathways for resilience, diversification and sustainable growth.

Trade predictability and diversification

As we are on the eve of the next WTO Ministerial Conference, which will be held on African soil, we continue to reiterate that predictability remains at the core of the global trading system which is fit for purpose.

The erosion of certainty in trade rules and the rise of unilateral measures undermine long-term planning for small, open economies which are committed to the world trading system. Mauritius supports a revitalised, rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, including a credible and effective dispute-settlement function, and recognition of the specific needs of developing countries.

At the domestic level, we are advancing diversification into higher-value sectors — ICT, renewable energy, sustainable finance, and the blue and circular economy — guided by our Circular Economy Roadmap 2023–2033 and focused on quality jobs and value addition.

In this respect we will continue to call for more cooperation between the UNCTAD, the WTO, the ITC, the UNIDO and the other international bodies and agencies for more coherence in trade related upscaling of capacity for developing countries.

Digital transformation and the green transition

Many countries of the Global South, including Mauritius are ambitioning to harness inclusive digitalisation in tandem with the green transition. The Mauritius National Fintech Strategy is opening space for innovation, while investments in a Smart Port, renewable bunkering options and sustainable shipping initiatives aim to position the country as a regional hub at the intersection of digital and green value chains.

These efforts are reinforced by ongoing AML/CFT reforms that strengthen the integrity of our international financial centre and bolster investor confidence.

Bridging the digital and technology divides

Mauritius believes that technology and innovation must be more utilized to support development. Artificial Intelligence, digital trade and the green–digital nexus offer transformative potential but also carry risks of exclusion if not governed inclusively.

We must ensure that the digital divide does not become an artificial intelligence divide for developing countries. Whilst under one third of developing countries have AI strategies, 2.6 billion people remain offline.

In this regard, ongoing processes such as the Global Digital Compact and the World Summit on the Information Society +20 co-hosted by Switzerland and the International Telecommunication Union provide important context. UNCTAD's role in capacity-building — from digital public infrastructure and data governance to e-commerce facilitation and AI readiness — is critical to ensure that developing countries can participate meaningfully and securely in the digital economy.

Food security and productive capacities

We all know that recent shocks have highlighted the particular challenges faced by Net Food-Importing Developing Countries. Mauritius is not only a SIDS, but also a NFIDC.

For small island economies, logistics costs and supply-chain volatility can quickly translate into food insecurity. Building productive capacities, advancing trade facilitation, and reducing frictions that impede MSME participation are therefore essential elements of resilience.

We welcome for more works and resources by the international community and the UNCTAD towards addressing the issue of food insecurity.

Regional and continental cooperation

Mauritius will continue to highlight that regional and continental cooperation is a stabilising force that delivers concrete benefits. Through our active participation in the SADC, COMESA, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the

AfCFTA, we are working to deepen integration, harmonise standards, and strengthen cross-border connectivity for goods, services and data.

We are also proud to host the future headquarters of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA), which will contribute to fairer assessments and improved access to affordable capital — important steps for unlocking investment across our continent and advancing Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

A practical partnership with UNCTAD

Mauritius values UNCTAD's support across diagnostics, toolkits and technical cooperation — from green and digital trade to investment facilitation and port efficiency. We see particular value in work that helps countries navigate the interplay of debt sustainability, climate adaptation, productive capacities and value-chain upgrading, including in the ocean economy consistent with SDG 14.

Madam President,

Mauritius stands ready to work with all partners, within and beyond this Conference, to shape a global economic landscape that is equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient — a future where no country is left behind, and where SIDS, despite their vulnerabilities, can contribute fully to global prosperity.

I thank you for your attention.