



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15 JOINT STATEMENT
Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and
Development, Nairobi, Kenya, 14 – 22 July, 2016

1. I would like to make this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Group of Developing Countries focused on South-South cooperation and collaboration for the realization of development and economic progress, especially in the areas of investment, trade and technology. At the very outset I take this opportunity to thank our host, the Government and people of Kenya for their warm hospitality and leadership to this Session. Our appreciation is also extended to Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of UNCTAD and his able team for the smooth execution of the mandate. The theme of this Session, “From Decision to Action: moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development” is timely and emphasizes the necessity to translate laborious policy making into tangible results for the benefit of all of humanity.
2. The G-15 affirms the critical role of trade and development and interrelated issues of finance, technology and investment for inclusive and sustainable development, and the need to provide integrated policy responses to issues arising in these areas. Our Group remains committed to a strong multilateral trade system and reiterate our determination to work together for a timely and successful conclusion of remaining Doha issues at WTO.
3. Our Group recalls that global trade is identified by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an important instrument for inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction, and the multilateral trade system is the primary channel for its promotion. A strong and efficient multilateral trading system is also a key element in finding solutions to the challenges of globalization, particularly equitable integration of developing countries into the global economy. The G-15 believes that the multilateral trading system should enable developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to access sufficient resources for their sustainable development needs through domestic resource mobilization and from public and private international sources. In the above context, the G-15 invites UNCTAD to initiate a frank and serious discussion in order to better adapt to global economic principles including the settlement of the question of debt and to achieve a sustainable and inclusive development; to contribute to the strengthening of production capacities at the level of different countries and to play an important role in the on-going processes at the WTO, particularly in the aftermath of the tenth ministerial conference which was held in Nairobi in December, 2015.
4. The G-15 recognizes international trade as the engine of rapid economic growth that was achieved by many developing countries in the past 15 years, which coincided with the

implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. International trade can significantly increase a country's income-generating capacity and therefore trade should be treated as an engine for economic growth and development in the global partnerships. Further international trade could be the single most important external source of development financing, particularly to small developing countries and LDCs.

5. The G-15 welcomes the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by world leaders in September, 2015 and note that the foreign ministers of our Group have identified the 2030 Agenda as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South. As the 2030 Agenda comes into effect this year, setting new global norms for development in the next 15 years, the Group calls for a robust and integrated implementation regime which encompasses other multi-lateral processes such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Change Agreement which augment the SDGs.
6. The G-15 acknowledges that the core mandate of UNCTAD offers the organization an important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a mandate that provides for the establishment of a holistic trade and development agenda based on justice, fairness and equity to address persistent and emerging economic challenges. Development needs to happen not only in the economic sphere but in the social and environmental realms as well in order to ensure environmental sustainability and social justice. The G-15 calls on meaningful technology transfers in the implementation of the 2030 agenda, especially with regard to clean and renewable energy.
7. It is the expectation of our Group that UNCTAD further strengthens its central role through its three pillars: research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation. Further UNCTAD as an organization of the United Nations system needs to continue to provide effective multilateral solutions, in particular to developing countries, for shared development challenges.
8. Our Group has identified South-South Cooperation as a significant impetus towards the fulfillment of the ambitious targets set out by the 2030 Agenda. In this regard the foreign ministers of our Group have mandated to seek out partnerships with International Organizations. The G-15 therefore stands committed for closer cooperation and collaboration to explore mutually beneficial synergies in the realm of South-South Cooperation.
9. G-15 is concerned on the attempts by our partners from the Global North to increasingly equate South-South Cooperation with North-South Cooperation, as we embark on realization of SDGs and other targets agreed in various outcomes in 2015. We may all agree that the South-South Cooperation, which is essentially voluntary, non-obligatory, collaborative and solidarity-based, is not amenable to the framework for measuring and assessing North-South Cooperation. Our Group wishes to ensure that the commitments made by Developed Countries under the rubric of North-South Cooperation are not diluted and are clearly reflected in the Nairobi UNCTAD Outcome document.

10. In conclusion, the G-15 hopes that the relevant recommendations that will be made during this current Session will provide an effective contribution in the pursuit of a sustainable development based on shared and mutually beneficial solutions for all.

I thank you for your attention.
