



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group at the Eightieth Session of the Working Party Geneva, 14 September 2020

General statement

Chair of the Eightieth Session of the Working Party,
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Vice-Chair of the Eightieth Session of the Working Party,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

1. The Asia Pacific Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Zambia on behalf of G77 and China.

3. The Group congratulates Ambassador Sadiqov of Azerbaijan, on his election as the Chair of group and Ms. Neema Manongi of Tanzania on her election as Vice-Chair cum Rapporteur. The Group assures you of its support to successful conclusion of this meeting.

4. The Group also thanks the Deputy Secretary General for her useful briefing on the activities undertaken by UNCTAD under its technical cooperation pillar. The Group values UNCTAD's continued assistance to developing countries through its various technical assistance programs and is pleased to note overall funding to UNCAD trust funds for technical cooperation activities increased by 35% over last year.

Mr. President,

5. In 2019, overall funding to UNCTAD trust fund for technical assistance reached a new high of \$46million. However, 52 percent of total funds, is still coming from developing countries under self-financing arrangements. Noting that the contribution from developed countries is \$11.8 million only, the Group encourages the developed countries to contribute more generously. More predictable, stable and sufficient voluntary funding will enable UNCTAD to deliver technical assistance to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in developing countries.

6. To bridge the funding gap, the Group encourages UNCTAD to also explore new funding sources including through multi-agency cooperation. The Group is pleased to note that UNCTAD has been successful to tap funds from the Islamic Development Bank and is discussing joint fundraising opportunities with UNIDO, WHO, South Centre, among others. The Group hopes that UNCTAD will further explore the possibility of tapping into funding sources available at the country level, such as UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity.

7. The Group expresses satisfaction on expansion of UNCTAD top two technical assistance programs i.e. ASYCUDA and DMFAS to more countries. However, recognizing the interest of many countries in the UNCTAD's other technical assistance programs including policy reviews of investment, trade, science, the technical and advisory services, and the training courses on international economic agenda, the Group calls on UNCTAD to allocate more funding to these programs from its regular budget.

8. The Group acknowledges that UNCTAD technical cooperation programs, in particular policy reviews are helpful to enhance developing countries endogenous capacity to formulate, implement and evaluate home-grown policies. The Group calls on UNCTAD to extend and further diversify its technical assistance tool box.

9. The Group notes with concern that most of extra budgetary funding for UNCTAD Trust Funds is tightly earmarked, thus, leaving no space with UNCTAD to shift the funds or tailor the programmes and projects according to the needs of the recipient Government. The Group calls on the donors not to earmark their funding.

10. Regarding the New Strategic Framework for Technical Cooperation, the Group expects that UNCTAD will develop a better coordination with UN Country Teams for an agile, effective and efficient delivery of technical cooperation projects.

11. On the important issue of evaluation, the Group welcomes the summary of evaluation findings of 2019 and takes note of the planned start of work for in-depth evaluation of sub-programme I in 2021 with a view to presenting this for the Working Party consideration in 2022. The Group encourages UNCTAD to continue conducting evaluations of its technical cooperation activities in accordance with guiding principles and in conformity with the norms and standards for evaluation of the United Nations Evaluation Group.

12. I thank you, Mr. President