



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN  
Geneva**

**Statement by Pakistan**  
**at the Eleventh Session of Trade and Development Commission**  
**(25-29 November 2019)**

**Mr. President,**

**Secretary-General of UNCTAD,** (Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi)

Director of the Division of International Trade and Commodities, (Mr. Pamela Cock-Hamilton)

Director of the Division of Technology and Logistics, (Ms. Shamika Sirimanne)

Excellencies,

Distinguished panellists and participants,

Firstly, I congratulate Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, for his election as Chair of the Eleventh Session of the Trade and Development Commission. I am confident that you will steer our discussions towards recommendations on important issues related to international trade and development.

I would also like to commend the Secretariat team for their efforts in organizing this important session.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and the statement delivered by Iraq on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

International trade continues to be an engine for inclusive economic growth, leading to poverty reduction and better standards of living for all. It represents also

win-win for both developing and developed countries. Yet, for trade to yield gains for all, an open equitable and fair international trading system is essential.

The current trend-lines such as increasing resort to protectionism do not augur well, particularly for developing countries. SIDS and landlocked developing countries face comparative disadvantages in the international trade and economic systems, exacerbated by climate induced disasters and high transportation costs due to long distances from global centers of commercial activity. Moreover, these economies are reliant on natural resources (including agriculture and tourism) and therefore more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Inequalities continue to rise as small states and least developed countries lack the financial and technical capital to address these challenges.

**Mr. President,**

The 2030 Agenda, our shared and egalitarian vision for global development, sets a target to double the share of LDCs in global exports by 2020. Although the level of ambition is admirable, gaps persist in relation to the means of implementation. Formidable challenges lie ahead. Developing countries, in particular SIDS, need an enabling trading environment that supports their meaningful integration into the global trading system.

The world economy has undergone tremendous changes during the past decade. New technological, economic and political dynamics demand that the trade rule books are updated.

No doubt technological advances can spur trade linkages and there are new trade opportunities arising for all countries, but in order to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, it is important to take into consideration different economic realities and degrees of economic development; their different cultural and social dynamics and the differences in resource endowments.

**Mr. President,**

Adoption of the 2030 Agenda has provided a unique opportunity to rejuvenate the global partnership for development, so that together we can grow prosperously and build resilience for the good of all our citizens. Developed countries should

provide technical and technological assistance to developing countries, to help them transition towards e-commerce and digital economy.

In terms of trade facilitation reforms, it is important to set out realistic road maps, focusing on gaps, targets, timelines and investment needs, while monitoring and evaluating progress. Institutional collaboration, intergovernmental cooperation and private–public sector coordination can help improve the international trading system. Inter-regional coordination, reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers for small states can mitigate their comparative disadvantages in international trade. South-South cooperation can also play pivotal role in enhancing trade among developing countries. It can complement north south cooperation to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and promote inclusive development.

**Mr. President,**

I take the opportunity to commend the efforts of the Division of International Trade and Commodities and the Division of Technology and Logistics, particularly in the timely preparation of background documents and publication of reports.

I thank you Mr. President.

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