Statement of Isabelle Durant for ECOSOC High-Level Policy Dialogue with the International Financial and Trade Institutions
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Today the future of globalization is in real question, and with it much of the means for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

- Nativism, populism and xenophobia— especially in developed countries – including anger at migrants and refugees from developing countries – is today challenging global solidarity at a moment when we should be joining forces to meet the challenge of financing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Even if the SDGs are a horizontal and universal challenge, we are now in a bizarre role reversal where it is developing countries who are trying to convince developed countries about the benefits of globalization.
- But the globalization, which developing countries wish to defend today, must be something new and more inclusive if it is to succeed. We must move beyond the globalization of exclusion that over the recent decades has left behind the LDCs and the poorest.
- We must move beyond this same globalization of exclusion that left behind so many of the working people in the developed world who have now embraced nativism & populism.

With multilateralism under fire, we know all countries need to work to grow their exports and reform trade for the better.

- But this means international attention needs to move beyond a narrow focus on the multilateral trade rules, and instead on the capacity building, trade finance, investment facilitation, competition policies and other aspects of the global enabling environment that permit trade but with less pressure on environment and carbon print in order to achieve other SDGs and respect the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Importantly – well beyond what is happening in Geneva or Washington – this means taking active steps at national level to use trade to kick-start domestic revenue collection, to use trade as part of domestic and regional industrial policies with an eye to structural transformation and enhanced productive capacities.

A lot of attention has been paid to rising protectionism but that is not what is holding back global demand – instead austerity measures have been the issue

- 10 years on from the crisis there has been too much of "a light touch" approach to the financial regulations that led to the crisis.
- Now with interest rates in the US starting to itch up, a return to "business as usual" is likely.
- The over emphasis on monetary policy and on fiscal austerity has defused any hopes that the G-20 can be something more than a talk shop, and has also held back the kind of coordinated macroeconomic fiscal policies we need to re-launch global and sustainable demand.

With technology reshaping trade – we need to help developing countries bridge the deepening digital divide – especially in growing sectors like e-commerce

- In 2015, the value of e-commerce worldwide was more than $25 trillion. This is roughly comparable with the total revenues of the world's 500 largest companies (US$ 27.6 trillion) in the same year. That's up from $18 trillion in 2013.
- But of the top 10 digital economies – only one is a developing country. And while between 60% and 80% of Europeans shop online, in Africa, less than 5% of the population does so. And in some countries, like Uganda, this share is as low as 1%.
    - Half the world is still not connected to the Internet.
    - And in the LDCs, only one of nine people is online.
    - Africa is lagging behind the most, in all key aspects of e-trade readiness: infrastructure connectivity, payment solutions (which could be helpful to fight against corruption), trade logistics, Internet security and legal framework.
- To make this ray of hope for the global economy into a ray of hope we have launched the e-Trade for all initiative and are also deploying eTrade Readiness Assessments for LDCs.

The challenge of automation is also changing prospects for development strategies

- The Robot revolution and industry 4.0 is changing the development options open to developing countries; for example, before we thought Africans could profit from cheap labor as prices rise in China, but today we see that Robots and automation are making the prospect of "free labor" in richer countries a reality. Where does that leave Africa and the growing bulge of youth demanding quality jobs in Africa? It requests a deep reconsideration of the relationship between economic development and job creation and revenue.

2. How might the 2030 Agenda address the challenges to globalization

For us at UNCTAD, moving towards a more respectful globalization is the principal purpose of the 2030 Agenda and of the Financing for Development commitments.

- The SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitments must serve not only as a roadmap to sustainable development, but really as a roadmap for the next phase of more inclusive and just globalization.
- And the next phase of globalization will only succeed if it empowers the countries and the people left behind by the most recent phase, which culminated in the global economic and financial crisis.

Foreign direct investment and investment promotion is an important areas where there are lots of unmet need to meet the challenges of the SDGs, particularly for the benefit of LDCs.

- According to UNCTAD estimates, between now and 2030, there is a 1.2 trillion dollar annual investment gap in critical infrastructure for trade and development needed in order to meet the SDGs. This is on top of what governments and the private sector are projected to invest at the current rate. Infrastructure is today in demand like never before.
- This means actions by development banks and by private sector actors, and also by the international community to address the obstacles to investment facing LDCs.
- The biggest obstacles to private finance remain staggering with respect to LDCs.
- Investment facilitation and investment promotion actions need to be taken all along the investment chain not just among financial intermediaries *(e.g. partnerships between outward investment agencies and inward promotion agencies in LDCs, moving from*

location-based to sector based incentives, changing business mindsets with "business schools for impact", SSE campaign for implementing sustainability standards on major stock exchanges)

Even as we speak about moving "beyond aid" and "from billions to trillions" ODA commitments need to be respected – this is even more evident as the resource envelope is squeezed by the demands for aid spending on refugees and climate finance