Talking points for keynote presentation to the High-Level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda
Doha, 18 November

- **Many thanks to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for organizing this High-Level Conference on FFD and MoI**.

    - At UNCTAD we appreciate the importance of the State of Qatar's leadership on financing for development;

    - The appropriate role of finance in development-led globalization was – not without controversy – the defining debate of the UNCTAD 13 Conference graciously hosted by the State of Qatar in 2012, in the aftermath of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis.

- **I also thank the State of Qatar for playing an important role in our celebration of UNCTAD's fifty-year anniversary in 2014.**

    - We are grateful for the recognition of the Government and State of Qatar of the importance of UNCTAD as a financing for development stakeholder acting in the interests of developing countries.

- **Since UNCTAD 13 was held here in Qatar, a little more than 5 years ago, we have seen the international community agree on the triple promise of 2015**: the ambitious SDGs, the holistic Addis Agenda's financing commitments, and climate financing modalities agreed at Paris at COP21.

    - UNCTAD estimates implementation of this three-pronged agenda will cost at least $1.5 trillion annually in additional financing in developing countries, alone.

- **However today, achieving this triple Agenda is at risk because the world is overdrawing on the inheritance of future generations, amidst populist politics and dog-eat-dog trade rhetoric.** We are already a decade beyond the onset of the global crisis, but the challenge of financing development has become even more daunting than ever:

    - Now, a crisis of multilateralism threatens the solidarity that has led to international cooperation on climate, on trade, and on financing for development more broadly.

    - A view of globalization has re-emerged focused not on development-oriented mutual benefit, but on mercantilist self-interest and declining trust in multilateral solutions.

    - The global enabling environment for financing continues to be hindered by weak demand, sluggish global trade and insufficient productive investment, both domestic and foreign, as well as challenges brought on by new and emerging technologies, including the 4th industrial revolution and the new digital economy.

- **The holistic financing roadmap laid out by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda offers ambitious global policy solutions to counter these trends**. Encouragingly, defenders of globalization's continued prospects for inclusivity and productivity have reacted to the backlash against globalization with a new scale of ambition, rooted in the AAAA commitments. These include:

    - Intensified and pragmatic bottom-up regional trade agreements, like the CFTA and the COMESA-EAC-SADC Trilateral Free Trade initiatives in Africa.

    - A new phase of international investment agreement reform that is leading to a new generation of investment treaties aimed at the sustainable development imperative is starting to replace uneven treaties from past decades of unequal globalization.

    - New development finance institutions, like the New Development Bank and the AIIB – primarily dedicated to filling the $1.5 trillion financing gap with the infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable prosperity.

    - Scaled up ambition for South-South initiatives, such as China's Belt and Road Initiative, and Triangular initiatives, like Japan-India-Africa cooperation, which are instrumental in not only creating the connectivity across developing regions needed to ignite sustainable development, but also at strengthening international solidarity.

- **Also encouragingly, the private sector has recognized their own self-interest and responsibility in financing Agenda 2030**. Knowing how markets work, however we must help Governments ring fence the private sector's sustainability gains against the whims of the marketplace and fickle shifts in investor sentiment**.**

    - Global consensus on the role of MNEs is a pillar of the AAAA. But this also is a challenge to Government and the United Nations system in finding new ways of working and defining smart partnerships.

    - Philanthropic partnerships, like UNCTAD's work with the Ali Baba Foundation for digital economy Africa, is one promising route; multi-stakeholder forums, like the World Investment Forum we host every two years, are another.

    - An express purpose of the FFD follow-up process – led by the major stakeholders (UNDP, UNCTAD, WTO as well as the WBG and IMF) today is to help build the evidence base on what makes blended finance and public-private partnerships work best, and how can Governments assure they don't privatize away their policy space and right to regulate.

- **In order to rally to the defense of multilateral solutions, and to leverage the private sector's potential, we at UNCTAD have been working to strengthen our role** helping countries integrate their trade, finance, investment, and technology policies into their sustainable development strategies.

    - This was called for in Addis Ababa Action Agenda paragraph 88, and UNCTAD 14 last year has re-situated our work programme to this end, which we are implementing now as part of the broader UN reforms.

    - A key step was last week when the 1st UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on FFD, created by UNCTAD 14, produced policy recommendations on

        - Improving measurement of illicit financial flows that harm domestic resource mobilization – as documented most recently by the Paradise Papers

        - Analyzing effectiveness of blended finance tools to mobilize private capital for long-term productive investment in developing countries.

    - We were grateful for active participation from the other FFD stakeholders, especially our partners in the FFD Office of DESA who have helped organize this Doha Meeting.

    - We hope the thought leadership that UNCTAD can provide on these issues will contribute to the deliberations of the upcoming FFD Forum and HLPF.

- **Global ambitions for financing for development however also must be built on the success and sharing of country experiences and sector experiences**.

    - This is one of the challenges we face in making the FFD Forum and the HLPF work most constructively for the benefit of member states.

    - We can't risk relegating the multilateral system's role in financing for development to passively monitoring national progress, but instead we must foster active multilateral cooperation on implementation**.**

- **Consider the financing of the goals under review at the HLPF in 2018 –** 6 on water, 7 on energy, 11 on cities, 12 on sustainable consumption and production and 15 on ecosystems – these are critical to the environmental sustainability all countries must achieve by 2030.

- **Prospects for financing Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15 vary dramatically and need different types of smart partnerships so that the furthest behind are put first.**

    - **The furthest behind on Goal 7 – sustainable energy, for example, are LDCs**.

        - Next week UNCTAD's LDC Report will be launched focusing on Energy for Transformation in the LDCs. While many LDCs have made strides in increasing energy access to their populations, the emphasis on access alone has held back sustainability, as it doesn't turn energy into a transformational asset.

        - The 2017 LDC report will argue that international support to LDCs in energy infrastructure should focus on energizing the productive sectors in order to help kick-start transformation in LDC countries.

        - Energizing production in LDCs is also a relative bargain given the growth dividend it can pay in helping end poverty. Total cost in LDCs *(embargoed figure: $12-40 bn/year*) is dwarfed by trillions needed for SDGs.

        - There is a major role for international donors, new financing partners, and private actors that we can mobilize through the FFD process to finance this goal.

    - **Contrast this with Goal 12 – sustainable consumption and production, which calls on private capital market participants to transition to sustainable practices**.

        - This is an area where the furthest behind have been until recently some of the major capital markets around the world – many of whom are only recently signing up to sustainability reporting guidance requirements.

        - With peer pressure and with a growing sense of corporate responsibility to contribute to effective multilateralism we have seen unprecedented developments over the past year for green finance at the G-20 and Financial Stability Board.

        - Just last week at COP23 in Bonn, UNCTAD's Sustainable Stock Exchange initiative, bringing together 65 member exchanges representing ¾ of the world's market capitalization launched a voluntary action plan on "how stock markets can grow green finance". This principles-based approach will help individual companies align their incentives with the international community, in order to finance development, even when some governments have not.

- **Concerted smart partnership among traditional and innovative stakeholders can make a difference** one country and market at a time, as well, in pursuit of the global ambitions we seek and the renewed multilateralism we need.

- **Many thanks** to the State of Qatar and to the President of ECOSOC, as well as my colleagues in DESA and the broader UN family, who have organized this important event. I look forward to working together to revive multilateralism and leverage all sources of financing for development for the benefit of developing countries.