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Statement by
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The world has set itself an ambitious challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the financing framework agreed by all Member States of the United Nations, provides a roadmap for financing this agenda. The United Nations has a central role in generating momentum on financing sustainable development, including by offering strategic forums for the engagement of all Member States, on equitable terms, with the international financial and trade institutions, UN agencies, and external stakeholders.

While people overall are living better lives than they were a decade ago, progress to ensure that no one is left behind is not rapid enough to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Significant and growing financial, political, economic, social and environmental risks threaten to derail progress.

I am pleased that the G24 is directly addressing the issues of coherence between global goals and the functioning of the international economic, financial and trading systems. The United Nations and its partners have regularly provided advice and policy options on these topics, including through the work of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. In addition to highlighting the global outlook, monetary and financial system reforms, and international trade, I also wish to raise two additional areas that the United Nations has identified as critical to our progress: international tax cooperation and migration.

The global outlook
The United Nations estimates that the world economy will experience growth of 3.0 per cent annually in the next few years. Aggregate growth in the least developed countries (LDCs) is expected to rise to a 5.3 to 5.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019 respectively, though this remains well below the SDG target for LDCs of 7 per cent growth. While the headline figures for the world economy are still largely favourable, disparities persist across countries and regions, and the risks to the economic outlook have continued to build.

Increasing debt levels in developing countries, volatility of capital flows and exchange rates, and uncertainty in the trading system are compounding the challenges the world already faces from climate change, disasters, migration, inequality and technological change. The undercurrent of geopolitical tensions could also disrupt economic activity. These risks have the potential to reverse economic and social improvements, leaving the poor and vulnerable behind.

Reforms to the monetary and financial systems
Market volatility hit a number of emerging market currencies in the first half of 2018, reminding the international community of the potential for financial markets to trigger economic crises. When dealing with risks from large and volatile capital flows, structural reforms and necessary macroeconomic policy adjustment could be supported by macroprudential and, as appropriate, capital-flow management measures. Measures in destination countries can be complemented by action in source countries, where frameworks to reduce international spillovers of their financial institutions would be welcome contributions to the creation of stable and sustainable capital markets.

Financial volatility and exchange rate depreciations can make repayment of external debt more onerous for developing countries. Debt vulnerabilities are increasing at a time when governments are faced with large financing needs to implement the 2030 Agenda. Debt crises can set back development progress, and hit the poorest, who are least able to deal with shocks, the hardest, derailing efforts to leave no one behind. Policy action is needed to retain fiscal space for SDG investments and to prevent and resolve debt crises that would undermine realization of the 2030 Agenda. In the outcome of the 2018 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, Member States recognised that it is helpful to differentiate how borrowed resources are used in debt sustainability assessments, and that effective public investment in infrastructure and productive capacity in support of the SDGs, under appropriate public debt management, can have a positive impact on fiscal space and debt sustainability over time. Additionally, in the Addis Agenda, Member States recognised that there is scope to improve arrangements for resolving sovereign insolvency crises. As the official creditor landscape has changed, there is a need to adapt the existing official creditor coordination mechanisms to reflect the rise of new creditors and new instruments. While political obstacles are unlikely to disappear in the short run, the changing landscape may eventually lead to a re-evaluation, and create an opportunity to advance the sovereign debt resolution agenda.

Renewed financial market volatility and debt distress, coupled with economic shocks caused by an increasing number of disasters in developing countries, are symptoms of an international financial architecture that is not yet well adapted to the demands of the 2030 Agenda. Achieving the SDGs will require financial stability and sustainability. There is a clear and pressing need to reorient the financial system, through policies and regulation, to support the broader aims of financing sustainable development in a stable and predictable manner.

Monetary systems also need reform. The shift from an international reserve system based on a single currency to a multicurrency system could lead to more volatility, owing to greater uncertainty and fluctuations across several major reserve currencies. Weak macroeconomic coordination across systemically important economies could exacerbate this volatility. Greater global macroeconomic policy coordination will be especially important as the world moves by default into a multicurrency reserve system.

International trade

Global trade tensions continue to escalate and have already resulted in the introduction of important new restrictions on trade. While the direct impact on global trade flows thus far remains limited, world trade growth has started to moderate. A prolonged duration or a further escalation of these restrictions has the potential to severely impact business and consumer confidence, asset prices and investment behaviour.

Trade is the fundamental building block of the modern global economy; a driver for broad-based economic growth and sustainable development. It creates jobs, promotes investment, spreads technological progress and lifts people out of poverty. The multilateral trading system is the lifeblood of our open, globalized, modern economy. The universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization is essential to a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive world. We need to nurture and strengthen it. As countries negotiate or renegotiate trade agreements, aligning those agreements with the sustainable development agenda will provide synergies in progress towards the global goals.

International tax cooperation

Domestic resource mobilization is critical to achieving the SDGs. The United Nations will continue providing both a norm setting function, including through the work of the United

Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, and capacity-building support for mobilizing domestic revenue in countries that need assistance. We are also partnering with other international institutions to further improve international cooperation in this area, notably through the Platform for Collaboration on Tax.

It is welcome that the G24 has a working group on tax policies and international tax cooperation and that it is producing a report on G24 perspectives on tax. The United Nations Tax Committee is discussing many of the same issues. Critical topics on its agenda include transfer pricing, base erosion and profit shifting, taxation of the extractive industries, the tax implications of the digitalisation of the economy, and environmental taxation. It would be useful to explore ways the G24 working group can coordinate with the United Nations Tax Committee so as to ensure developing country concerns are effectively represented at international forums for discussion of tax norms. The United Nations will continue to work to enable developing countries, especially the poorest countries, to benefit from new international tax standards.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Human mobility is at the top of the political agenda, from town councils to parliaments to the United Nations General Assembly. Migration is a historic and multi-faceted phenomenon involving humanitarian, human rights, and demographic issues. It has deep economic, social, environmental and political implications; migrants make a major contribution to international development – both by their work and by sending remittances to their home countries. The Global Compact for Migration, which will be adopted at an intergovernmental conference in Morocco in December 2018, emphasises that collaboration on migration is fundamental to addressing human mobility in an orderly and sustainable manner. It sets out an approach that will benefit migrants, the people they leave behind and the communities they join. It seeks to address the legitimate concerns of host states and communities; and to leverage the benefits migration brings to host and home countries. Finance ministers and central bankers will have an important role to play in its implementation as many key issues fall under their purview. These include financial inclusion of migrants, promoting faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances, and ensuring sufficient funding for strengthening the collection and use of migration data, for countering human trafficking and for delivering basic services to all migrants.

Secretary-General's Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda

The Secretary-General launched a new strategy for financing the 2030 Agenda at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in September. Deep changes are needed to mobilize finance at the scale and speed necessary. The strategy notes that first, economic policies and financial systems must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Second, we need to create and/or strengthen sustainable financing and investment strategies at the country level. Finally, we must seize the potential of financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to provide inclusive and more equitable access to finance.

It is imperative to strengthen and make more coherent public policies, regulatory frameworks and finance at the national, regional and global levels. This underlines the importance of, and the need for, a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system. At the national level, countries need to foster an environment conducive to investment. Further efforts are needed to build capacity for the preparation of a pipeline of investible projects at scale. Instruments that help mobilize private capital are useful tools in development banks' toolkits, though the appropriate capital structure for investments ultimately depends on project and national characteristics. In some cases, particularly for social services that do not generate revenues to repay the private partner, public funding might be most appropriate financing source. Countries should set out strategic national financing frameworks that integrate all different types of financial flows and match these to national sustainable development priorities. The next *Financing for Sustainable Development Report* of the Inter-agency Task Force will elaborate guidelines for developing such frameworks.

I look forward to continuing the close working relationship between the United Nations and your members as we implement the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Without the leadership of the G24 countries, which are the biggest contributors to economic growth and poverty reduction, the deep-rooted structural change the world is seeking cannot be delivered.