



UNCTAD High-level International Investment Agreements (IIA) Conference 2018

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Chairs,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure to be here today and have an opportunity to address you. In this limited time, it would be impossible to recap all that has happened since we last met. I am sure that we will hear about it from many of you. It is, therefore, that I have decided to focus on two general issues: coherence and continuation of reform process.

Even though we are now globally at Phase 3 of the IIAs reform, it is the fact that the pace of the reform has been uneven among individual countries. While some have advanced very well others might consider themselves at the very beginning of this long process and this may be conditioned by specific circumstances they are in. We have also witnessed some backward steps in national policies or complete policy shifts. It is only the future time and case law that will say how effective these have been and had we met our objectives.

To avoid creation of new policy gaps and inconsistencies and to ensure an optimum effectiveness, it is important to make sure that policies we create are coherent and working in synergy. The need for consistency, however, did not emerged only now. On the contrary, it should have been, all the way, an underlying essential element of all reform activities and at the same time an indicator of how effective we were in the reform process.

Now, let me say few words about the process. Let us all recall that this broad, all-inclusive and substantive reform has been generated through dialog here, under the sponsorship of UNCTAD. While they advocated for reform as such and offered their technical expertise and other forms of assistance, they have maintained the role of impartial forum for discussion connecting in dialogue even the most adverse positions and policies and making sure that voices of all stakeholders are heard.

We have gone a long way by now, but it is too early to conclude that we succeeded and reached the end. We, therefore, call for continuation of efforts on multilateral level and use of the unique convening power of our host UNCTAD to keep the debate open, live, inclusive, substantive and solutions-oriented.

It is undeniable that such a debate has brought results in the past and that is why we should keep it going until our work is done.

Thank you.