

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Zenebe Kebede, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland at the Ambassadors' Roundtable organized by UNCTAD.**

*11 November 2019. Geneva.*

**Honourable co-chairs,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me begin by thanking the Division on Investment and Enterprise in the UNCTAD for organizing and inviting me to co-chair this year's Ambassadors' Roundtable.

We are having this year's discussion at a critical time. Just over a month ago, the SDG Summit and other sustainable development related events held in New York underscored the need to step up the speed and ambition of actions if we are to remain on target and achieve the SDGs by 2030. This urgent call stems from the concern that the much-needed global response is not yet sufficiently transformative. We see this dire truth also reflected in the SDG Trends Monitor report which is before us. We should therefore spare no efforts or time in making sure that adequate resources and other means of implementation are mobilized to finance SDGs and SDGs related projects. I believe this roundtable is one important platform to undertake this critical task and should also serve for sharing best practices to enhance investment in SDGs.

We in Ethiopia, ladies and gentlemen, have embarked on the journey to implement the SDGs right after their adoption. We have mainstreamed these global development goals in our national development plan allotting huge public resources for their implementation. The major reforms introduced over a year ago since Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed has assumed power also

fostered the implementation efforts and the home-grown economic reform, with the private sector at its core, has given new impetus in propelling the Ethiopian economy which continues to be one of the fastest in Africa. As one of the top destinations of FDI, these reform measures have created conducive environment for the private sector to partner with government and other stakeholders in boosting investment. However, in addition to the efforts of mobilizing domestic resources to finance the SDGs, adequate and predictable international public finance still is paramount in financing SDG projects, and hence commitments made in that regard should also be fulfilled.

At last year's roundtable, Ambassadors spoke with one voice on the need to engage all stakeholders, including the private sector in the process of attaining the SDGs. The updated training course and handbook on investment for us diplomats is one important instrument which we should make effective use of in undertaking the vital task of promoting and mobilizing investment for SDG-related sectors and projects.

Ambassadors also underscored the need to enhance and strengthen cooperation between international organizations in Geneva. This would enable us Ambassadors explore resources we need to mobilize from these organizations. In this context, I might also like to add that we need to look into the United Nations Secretary-General's Strategy and Roadmap for Financing the 2030 Agenda, particularly on the implementation of the specific actions in those six areas which would further enrich our engagement and discussions.

In concluding, I would like to once again thank the Division on Investment and Enterprise in UNCTAD for organizing this roundtable and express my Government's firm commitment to continue to work closely with UNCTAD and our development partners in implementing the SDGs.

**I thank you.**