

Second Ambassadors' Roundtable on Investing in the SDGs (11 November 2019)

Intervention by H.E. Petr Gajdušek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic

(Check against delivery)

Distinguished Chairs, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My Government believes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers on the global level a sound roadmap to a peaceful future without poverty, hunger and environmental degradation where everybody benefits from economic and social progress.

However, it is clear that the SDGs cannot be reached without huge financial resources, which have to be invested into their accomplishment. It is certainly a big challenge and we are pleased that UNCTAD work hard to contribute to the fulfilment of this immense task. I would therefore like to appreciate two products, which were recently prepared by UNCTAD to better monitor the SDG investment trends, namely the first ever issue of the SDG Trend Monitor and the brochure Guidance on Core Indicators for Entity Reporting on Contribution towards the SDGs.

Both documents are important because they significantly contribute to better understanding of the role, which the private companies play in order to achieve the SDGs. The unreplaceable role of the private sector in this regard is explicitly acknowledged also in the main strategic document of the Czech Government, which translates Agenda 2030 into our national conditions, called "Strategic Framework – Czech Republic 2030".

It is of high concern that, as is mentioned in the UNCTADs SDG Investment Monitor, "the transition towards sustainable-development-oriented investment is so far not happening at the necessary scale of pace". I would agree that this calls for transformative initiatives to mobilize and channel investment towards the SDGs as was proposed in UNCTAD's Action Plan for investment in the SDGs contained already in the UNCTADs World Investment Report 2014.

Czech Republic highly values the role, which UNCTAD plays in the area of investing in the SDGs. We believe that besides the documents produced by UNCTAD, which I mentioned earlier, the important role to achieve the relevant targets of Agenda 2030 plays and should continue to play also the World Investment Forum organised by UNCTAD.

However, I would like to express by this occasion, that we trust UNCTAD to play its role also in other spheres of SDGs implementation. As one can read on UNCTAD webpages, this organisation contribute to progress on 52 specific targets grouped under 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It means that it is in this regard one of the very prominent parts of the whole UN system and their role to achieve SDGs namely in developing countries cannot be underestimated.

The Czech Republic certainly promote implementation of all the SDGs of the Agenda 2030. However if we should express our preference where UNCTAD should concentrate more, it would be SDG No. 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with particular focus on the promotion of responsible and transparent institutions, that are honest and open with the public and ensure enforceability. This focus is based on the long-term priorities of the Czech Foreign Policy, which we tried to promote also during our recent ECOSOC presidency. We strongly believe that it is impossible to achieve efficient and long-term fulfilment of other SDGs, including those related to investment, without it.

Thank you for your attention.