

UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2018
ACP Group of States Ministerial Round Table on Investment Policy
Coordination

Statement by Mukisha Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD

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AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States Ministerial Roundtable on Investment Policy Coordination.

As I speak, the Palais des Nations hosts an immensely diversified body of stakeholders and participants representing the international investment and development community. They are here this week to address pressing policy issues arising from global challenges for international investment in the new era of globalization and industrialization.

I am honoured and pleased to open this Ministerial Roundtable, organized jointly with the ACP Secretariat, as one of the four Ministerial Round Tables during this Forum.

This Roundtable attests to the importance of investment policymaking in and for the ACP Group of States, but also to the relevance of both our institutions' joint cooperation for a common goal: assisting ACP States in harnessing investment for sustainable development.

Cooperation between the ACP Secretariat and UNCTAD on investment policy issues is longstanding, and it has yielded a particularly important fruit: *The Joint ACP-UNCTAD Guiding Principles on Investment Policymaking*.

These non-binding Principles were developed jointly by UNCTAD and the ACP Secretariat in the framework of the partnership between the two institutions and were approved at the ACP Committee of Ambassadors' meeting in Brussels

in 2017. The Guiding Principles are inspired by various sources of international law and policy, drawing, among others, on UNCTAD's Core Investment Principles that form an integral part of our Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. They are also in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third UN International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015.

The importance of these Principles cannot be understated. They come at a time when sustainable development has entered the mainstream of investment policymaking. Today, a large number of countries are reforming their investment policies by reviewing national investment promotion strategies, adopting new approaches for national level action and developing new models for international treaty making.

The Guiding Principles can help ACP States develop a coherent, consolidated and coordinated approach towards investment policymaking. This is particularly important today, when the ACP Group of States is engaged in the renewal of the Cotonou Agreement with the European Union. Strengthened coordination and cooperation among ACP countries to enhance the development dimension of the investment-related provisions of the Cotonou Agreement is needed; and I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

We are very also keen to hear your views on the roles the ACP Secretariat and UNCTAD can play to better support ACP countries in the formulation of investment policies that are conducive to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

In this context, I wish to reiterate UNCTAD's readiness to offer its support and technical assistance on issues related to investment policies. To give you one example, we are currently working with the ACP Secretariat on a technical assistance project on international investment agreements reform. The project was presented before the ACP Subcommittee on Investment and the Private Sector in April 2018 and was submitted to the ACP Ambassadors' Committee last week. We look forward to strengthening our cooperation with the ACP Secretariat and with ACP States in the framework of this project.

Excellencies, I am sure there is a lot in your speaking notes that you wish to share with us, so I shall not take any more time.

I'm looking forward to hearing your views on how to strengthen investment policy among the ACP Group of States. Thank you.

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In case of video message

[We are happy to have welcoming remarks via a video message from Dr. Patrick Ignatius Gomes Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) that we will play shortly]

In case of physical presence

[I now give the floor to Dr. Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) to make his remarks.]

Dr. Ignatius, you have the floor.