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**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 63rd session of UNCTAD Trade and Development Board**

6 December 2016, Geneva

Mr. President,

We wish to recognize the importance of UNCTAD's work programme on international investment agreements (IIAs) which assist countries in drafting and negotiating treaties that reflect their right to regulate for development purposes while at the same time maintaining adequate levels of investment protection.

In this context I wish to reiterate our gratitude to UNCTAD for its work on the new model bilateral investment treaty of Azerbaijan, and for its continued technical assistance and capacity building on issues related to IIAs. We welcome UNCTAD's training course on IIAs to be held on 23-26 January 2017 in Casablanca, Morocco. We also would like to express our appreciation on UNCTAD's efforts, which in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan will organize a high level conference on international investment policies in May 2017 in Baku.

We also call on UNCTAD to strengthen its work on investment facilitation, as this will complement its work on investment protection. In this context, we welcome UNCTAD's Action Menu on Investment Facilitation that provides 10 action lines in a user-friendly format for countries to use and adapt to their own specific needs.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.