STATEMENT BY CANADA

DELIVERED BY
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SECOND SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF UNGA ON
AGENDA ITEM:

17) MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS

NEW YORK, 24 OCTOBER 2013

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DÉCLARATION DU CANADA

PRONONCÉE PAR
BRIANNA PETERSON
DEUXIÈME SECRÉTAIRE
MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

DEUXIÈME COMMISSION DE LA 68E SESSION TO L’AGNU SUR

POINT 17 - QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE MACROÉCONOMIQUE

NEW YORK, LE 24 OCTOBRE 2013
Thank you Mr. Chair,

Canada has chosen to speak under agenda items 17 (a), (c) and (d) in the macroeconomic policy cluster, but this statement will also address issues related to Financing for Development (agenda item 18) and the International Financial System and Development (agenda item 17b), given the interlinkages across these agenda items. This approach is consistent with my delegation’s view that, in the context of our ongoing efforts to improve the working methods of this committee, we should continue to work toward streamlining the Second Committee agenda.

Although challenges persist that pose risks for the global economic and financial situation, including growth and employment prospects, as Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said at the recent G20 meeting in St. Petersburg, “it is unmistakable that the global economy is recovering”. Political will, strong leadership and decisive actions are imperative to strengthen this recovery, restore market confidence, foster financial stability and strengthen growth prospects. All countries must follow through on meeting their reform commitments.

Mr. Chair,

Canada believes that the holistic financing for development framework elaborated by the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration remains relevant and should continue to guide our collective efforts to reduce poverty, achieve economic growth and promote sustainable development. As we adapt to a dynamic and evolving global development landscape, further efforts in this area should build on this solid foundation.

The increasing focus of the international community on the post-2015 development agenda provides an important opportunity to reflect on what we’ve achieved, how things have changed, and how we might enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of development financing going forward. We must mobilize all actors, especially the private sector, in this endeavour. There is important work already underway – here at the UN, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts in Sustainable Development Financing, as well as at the OECD, the World Bank and the regional development banks. The results of these initiatives should inform our approach.

Mr. Chair,

Canada believes that the most important source of development finance is and will continue to be domestic resource mobilization. In this regard, national ownership and good governance are fundamental, which requires sustained efforts from and collaboration across the public and private sectors.

The public sector is essential to fostering the broader economic conditions for market-driven growth, including through effective and transparent economic institutions, the right enabling environment for doing business, and strategic investment in public goods for the benefit of citizens and communities. In short, good governance creates a
predictable, open, accountable and rules-based framework that benefits all actors in society.

By leveraging private sector resources and know-how, we can help create secure and well-paying jobs—the foundation of any strong economy, developed or developing, and the most effective antidote to poverty. The private sector will thus be the central feature of the solution, and we need to continue to explore the potential of public-private partnerships. Canada, like many other donors, is committed to increasing both its engagement with and support with the private sector in developing countries. We recognize that the prospective benefits of strengthening the private sector and of leveraging private financial flows are not yet fully maximized.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the mobilization of international resources for development, while ODA remains important for many of the least developed countries, the data indicates that ODA as a percentage of overall international financial flows is declining, and that trade, foreign direct investment and remittances continue to rise.

There are various ways and places to collaborate on this agenda – starting with us here within the UN system. But there is a limit to what we as member states can do on our own. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation offers a unique venue to engage the full range of development partners, both inside and outside governments, in a way that allows for a representative but more nimble way to approach development challenges. Canada looks forward to participating in the upcoming ministerial meeting in Mexico next spring, which will focus on themes related to domestic resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, inclusive development and private sector engagement.

Mr. Chair,

Canada believes that free and open trade has long been a powerful engine for economic growth and poverty reduction. It is even more so in turbulent economic times – open and rules-based trade creates jobs and spurs economic growth, globally and at the national level. Canada is committed to moving the WTO's multilateral trade liberalisation agenda forward, including by exploring new pathways such as alternative negotiating approaches. We will continue to work collaboratively toward a successful outcome at the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) in Bali in December 2013.

We remain steadfast in our conviction that countries must stand firm against protectionist pressures. We welcome the extension until 2016 of the G20's standstill commitment and will continue to work toward further progress in removing barriers and impediments to global trade and investment, including by curbing protectionism through the WTO.

Improvements in market access need to be complemented by efforts at the intersection
of trade and development to address significant "supply-side" constraints faced by developing countries, particularly least-developed countries, and small and vulnerable economies.

Canada looks forward to working within the Second Committee to repeat the success of UNGA66 and UNGA67 and once again reach consensus on the trade resolution, which we believe is an important signal to the international community as we prepare for Bali.

High public debt and sustainability concerns in some advanced and emerging countries pose significant challenges to the global economy. Canada believes that sound public finances are fundamental to economic prosperity. We welcome the ongoing work by the IMF and World Bank Group to support the improvement of debt management practices.

Mr. Chair,

Canada also supports efforts to further strengthen the international financial architecture. We support the IMF’s ongoing quota reforms to better align countries' voice, and representation with their relative economic weights and integration in the global economy while protecting the poorest and most vulnerable countries. We remain committed to completing the current round of reforms by the January 2014 deadline.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Canada's commitment to engage constructively over the coming weeks on the issues pertaining to financing for development and macroeconomic policy questions.

Thank you.