



UNCTAD XIII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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ROUND TABLE 3

STRENGTHENING ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

24 APRIL 2012, 9 a.m. – noon

BACKGROUND

Current development challenges in the context of ongoing difficulties in multilateral trade negotiations, the recent global financial and economic crises and the shifting geography of growth dynamics need to be addressed by means of concerted national, regional and international action. This should include efforts to strengthen the impact of trade on inclusive growth, sustainable development and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. For this purpose, North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation and partnerships should be mobilized, strengthened and more effectively channelled towards the maximization of development gains from participation in international trade in goods, services and commodities. Measures to build and strengthen productive capacities need to be given greater prominence in the development cooperation agenda. UNCTAD could play an important role in advancing that agenda and supporting such partnerships.

PURPOSE

The Round Table will bring together government ministers, senior policymakers and other stakeholders from around the world to discuss what forms of development cooperation and partnerships for enhancing trade and its beneficial effects exist, why such cooperation and partnerships need to be strengthened or new ones created to better address emerging development challenges and opportunities, and how and by whom this could be done to maximize the contribution of international trade in goods, services and commodities towards fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

OUTCOME

The Round Table is expected to:

- (a) Identify strategic forms of cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation, and related measures that can strengthen such partnerships to:
 - (i) Promote more beneficial participation of developing countries in world trade in goods, services and commodities;

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- (ii) Effectively address emerging trade constraints or trade barriers faced by developing countries, particularly least developed countries;
 - (iii) Strengthen the contribution of trade towards inclusive growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and job creation;
- (b) Suggest ways in which UNCTAD could, through research, consensus-building and technical capacity, facilitate the strengthening of strategic cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including on the links between trade and productive capacities.

ORGANIZATION

The Round Table will be attended by (a) government ministers; (b) senior policymakers in government, intergovernmental, regional and subregional economic organizations and international organizations; (c) eminent policy analysts or scholars and (d) private sector and civil society leaders.

The Round Table will be divided into two sessions. The first will include brief presentations by ministerial and other eminent panellists, with a discussion on the development challenges and opportunities facing the global economy today, focusing on the international trading system. The presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The second will feature brief presentations by ministerial and other eminent panellists, followed by a discussion on how existing cooperation and partnerships for trade and development can be strengthened and what new forms can be developed to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development. The role of UNCTAD in strengthening such partnerships will also be explored. The presentations will be followed by a debate.

The Round Table will be chaired at the ministerial level. A report of the proceedings will highlight the main points and suggest some ways forward.

AGENDA

The Round Table will be organized around the following tentative agenda:

- Opening
- Session 1: Can the trading system meet the development challenges of the twenty-first century?
- Session 2: How can existing cooperation and partnerships for trade and development be strengthened and what new forms can be developed – including by UNCTAD – to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development?
- Chair's conclusion

DOCUMENTS

- UNCTAD issues note TD/453 – Strengthening cooperation and partnerships for trade and development
- Report (policy recommendations) on UNCTAD pre-conference event entitled “Redefining the Role of the Government in Tomorrow’s International Trade”, 26–28 March 2012, Geneva

For more information
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