

Shaping a better future for all



The United Nations wants to hear **YOUR** ideas

Let your voice be heard through UNCTAD's Book of Aspirations

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, a Geneva-based branch of the United Nations that champions economic development, is reaching out to the public at large. It is looking for concrete ideas that can help improve people's social and economic well-being, especially in developing countries. Everyone, everywhere is invited to participate.

On the eve of the new millennium, Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, has launched a Year 2000 project entitled **the Book of Aspirations**. The idea has its roots in the consultations with ordinary citizens which were undertaken just before the 1789 French Revolution; these resulted in a "book of grievances". **The Book of Aspirations** will focus on possible solutions to current economic problems -- ideas to give reasons for real hope of a better future for the citizens of the 21st century.

Three thousand dignitaries from almost 200 countries, attending the UNCTAD X Conference in Bangkok this February, will benefit from your ideas and suggestions. Later in the year, the final Book will be compiled, and published for the benefit of a global audience.



Participate, using these questions as a guide:

THE BOOK OF ASPIRATIONS

- What could make our children's lives better than our own in practical and material terms?
- For example, what could help create new jobs and businesses, increase wages, reduce income inequality, or facilitate international trade?
- How do you think this can be achieved?
- What could you, your community, organization or Government do about it?
- What could international organizations do about it?
- What role could international trade, finance, investment, or technology play?
- Which success stories could show your idea in action?
- Which trends convey hope of a better economic future (e.g. the more participatory role of women; the growing influence of civil society on government policies)?

THE BOOK OF ASPIRATIONS

Send your entries (3 pages maximum, please, unless by prior agreement) by 31 January 2000 for presentation at the UNCTAD X Conference (or by 31 July 2000 for inclusion in the final Book). Entries can be submitted in English, French or Spanish and will be selected and edited by UNCTAD. Send via:

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Please include information about yourself (name, occupation, nationality, company/organization, mailing address, e-mail, fax, and optionally sex and age).