

Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

Opening Plenary
General statements by regional groups
Speaker: Group D

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UNCTAD
60TH SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
GENEVA, 16-27 SEPTEMBER 2013

Group D Opening Statement, 16 September 2013

Envoy István Pokorádi, Head of the Permanent Mission of **Hungary** to the
WTO

Mr President,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

as outgoing coordinator I have the honour to speak on behalf of Group D.

Mr President,

First we would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the TDB. We also would like to thank the great work of the outgoing presidents, who we can proudly say both come from Group D, Ambassador Jüri Seilenthal (Estonia) and Ambassador Mukhtar Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan).

We also would like to warmly congratulate Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi on his appointment as Secretary General of UNCTAD. We strongly believe that Dr. Kituyi's background, including his wide-ranging experience in trade negotiations, will make him a great leader of UNCTAD in this important time of change.

Mr President,

Indeed we are living in an important time of change. The global landscape of international trade and development is changing. One new pattern of world trade is the increasing fragmentation of production processes and the related rise of global value chains, leading to a

much higher level of interdependence among countries. The global value chains can make an important contribution to development, but not necessarily automatically. That is why we consider the ongoing international work analyzing the operation of GVCs of crucial importance, and UNCTAD should have a major role in this research. We welcome UNCTAD's valuable contribution to this debate, also reflected in the World Investment Report 2013, which greatly adds to the better understanding of this complex process and helps to avoid simplistic conclusions about the development and trade policy implications of global value chains. In this way UNCTAD could help developing countries as well as transition economies in maximising the benefits and minimising the risks related to the operation of global value chains.

When talking about GVCs, one also needs to make a reference to trade facilitation since it is a particularly important element in reaping the benefits of this new pattern of international production and trade. In this regard, the conclusion of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Bali this December could be a game changer in making the global value chains work for development.

Besides the new geography of global production and trade, there is also a need for change coming from another direction. The developments of the world economy in the last decade call for greater differentiation in the design of trade related development activities. If we want to maximize the value added from UNCTAD's work, we should focus our attention considerably more on the most vulnerable countries. LDCs are beyond doubt those who need our help the most. They have remained marginalized in the globalized world economy despite all efforts so far. That is why we should further strengthen UNCTAD's special focus on the needs of the LDCs as well as further increase the mobilization of resources for their development.

Mr President,

In achieving all these ambitious goals, the improvement of UNCTAD's management and administration is instrumental. In increasing UNCTAD's efficiency, the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit's Review of Management and Administration plays a great role.

Mr President, Distinguished colleagues,

Let me conclude by making a reference to the contribution of international trade to the realization of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The sixtieth session of the TDB takes place at a perfect time in this regard. The process is now ongoing in New York and Geneva to design a clear set of inclusive and sustainable development goals to be achieved in the coming decades. UNCTAD, in cooperation with the WTO and ITC, plays a major role in defining how international trade could be an engine to attain broad development goals such as eradication of extreme poverty. The fact that all three organizations working in the intersection of international trade and development have just recently got new heads creates a great opportunity to bring new impetus into how trade can work for development.

Thank you for your attention.