

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

**Opening Plenary**

**Speaker: United Kingdom**

**Monday, 16 September 2013**

*Not checked against delivery \**

\* This statement is made available in the language and form in which it was received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



Mr President,

I would like to echo the congratulations to you on your election as the President of the Trade and Development Board. I wish you a successful Trade session.

Secretary General Kituyi, Karibu, welcome as you say in Kenya. I would like to warmly welcome and congratulate you on behalf of the UK and on behalf of my Ambassador, Karen Pierce, who is Chair of the International Trade Centre's Joint Advisory Group. We look forward to working with you closely.

Secretary General, you are a longstanding advocate of the benefits of trade for development, as part of wider inclusive economic development, particularly in Africa. I am sure you will bring this extensive experience to bear in UNCTAD.

UNCTAD can play an important role in helping developing countries identify opportunities and manage risks in their national efforts to grow through trade and broader economic growth. UNCTAD has shown real added value in its work on investment and trade facilitation.

Mr President,

As you know, the UK is a strong supporter of international development. Our current provisional estimate is that the UK spent over £ 8 billion on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2012. This equates roughly to 0.56% of our Gross National Income (GNI). Despite the current economic challenges, the UK is firmly on track to meeting the target of spending 0.7% of our GNI on ODA this year and we would be the first G8 country to do so.

Specifically on aid for trade (or trade-related development assistance), the UK continues to spend approximately £ 1 billion per year to help break down trade barriers and costs, particularly in the Least Developed Countries and in Africa.

The UK has been active in promoting the UN development agenda. My Prime Minister co-chaired the 27 member UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015

Millennium Development Goals. The panel's bold and optimistic report states clearly that we can and must eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. We encourage UNCTAD to participate actively and productively in the post-MDG debates over the next two years.

As the current G8 Chair, we and other G8 countries committed at our recent summit to continue to provide, within our current Aid for Trade commitments, substantial resources for technical assistance and capacity building to help implement a WTO Trade Facilitation deal, in particular to the benefit of the Least Developed Countries.

Secretary General,

We welcome your intention to forge stronger working relationships with the WTO, ITC and other UN Institutions. I am also encouraged by your focus on results and further improving the efficiency and effectiveness of UNCTAD's management and administration. We are committed to working closely with the rest of the UNCTAD membership and the Secretariat to support you in this endeavour.

Thank you.

Mark Matthews, UK Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
United Kingdom Mission to the UN, WTO and all other Geneva International  
Organisations