

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

Opening Plenary
Farewell statements by H.E. Ambassador Mukhtar
Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan)
Monday, 16 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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Farewell statement

**FOR THE PRESIDENT OPENING THE SESSION
H.E. Ambassador Mukhtar Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan)**

President of the previous fifty-ninth session of TDB

Plenary session- Monday, 16 September 2013, 10 am, Room 18

Draft as of 30 August 2013

1. Thank you Minister al-Kuwari for your thought provoking remarks, as well as your kind words directed at me. I would now like to say a few words before we move on to our first agenda item, the election of officers.
2. It is with mixed feelings that I enter my last few moments as President of the Trade and development Board. I am of course pleased by what we have accomplished together.
3. Together, we reached agreement on the celebration of UNCTAD's 50th anniversary; and together we reached agreement on the terms of reference for the various expert group meetings. In so doing we forged bonds and cultivated an excellent atmosphere of understanding and cooperation which I hope will continue into the future.
4. It is a future that holds much promise, and that demands much of us. We therefore have much to do if we are to fully seize the opportunities, and if we are to be true to the demands of history. I therefore thank Minister al-Kuwari for his vision of the future, and the ideas and wisdom he shared with us. His presence is also a visible manifestation of the personal commitment that he and the State of Qatar place in UNCTAD and the new Secretary-General. I would like to echo the Minister and state that we have high expectations of Dr. Kituyi. I am sure that he also has high expectations of us and we must deliver our share in strengthening UNCTAD.
5. For my part, I may be bidding you farewell as President of the Trade and Development Board, but I intend to remain fully engaged in the work of UNCTAD. Perhaps there is something about being President of the Board that forever binds you to UNCTAD. Perhaps it is the exciting times. Perhaps it is a combination of many factors.
6. Whatever those factors may be, I assure my successor as well as Dr. Kituyi that I will continue to play my part in contributing to the success of this organization, and to ensuring that it will play its important role in the broader unfolding and continued refinement of the global development agenda.

7. One modest contribution will be incorporating an UNCTAD 50 component to the 2014 Astana Economic Forum. The Forum is rapidly becoming an intellectual center of excellence in which great minds and great personalities meet to change the world for the better - UNCTAD's core business since the beginning. It is therefore fitting that UNCTAD continue to enrich the proceedings of the Forum. In turn, we look forward to the proceedings of the Forum enriching our deliberations and action in UNCTAD.
8. One specific means for doing so would be to have an annual gathering of key thinkers on development under the auspices of the Forum and in partnership with UNCTAD. Not just trade. Not just finance. And not just sustainable development. This would be in keeping with the finest intellectual traditions of UNCTAD, and consistent with its holistic approach and mandate.
9. I believe that by enhancing UNCTAD's cooperation with initiatives such as the Astana Economic Forum, greater coherence and focus can be brought to bear in addressing the global development agenda, thus helping us to more profoundly affect the world for the better. Perhaps it would be opportune for such an event to mark the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD, and for those proceedings to contribute concrete ideas and initiatives to the preparations for 2015 and beyond.
10. I also intend to continue my cooperation and consultations with the secretariat on what activities my delegation can support in Geneva not only as our contribution to UNCTAD 50 but also as part of the global effort towards 2015. As we do so, we continue to be conscious of the natural cascade towards 2016 and UNCTAD XIV.
11. It is a time of great opportunity. It should be a time for great ambition. It is therefore a time for courageous action. I thank you for your cooperation over the course of the past year, and I join you in committed action towards an even brighter and stronger future for UNCTAD.
12. Before moving on to agenda item 1, election of officers, I must thank the UNCTAD secretariat, they are the bedrock on which the institution is built, and through their dedication and hard work, they have and will make it possible for us to accomplish great things. My special thanks to Mrs. Sahami, the secretary of the board, with whom I worked very closely and effectively, and her team for the very professional and effective support and assistance throughout my presidency. I would also like to thank the interpreters and all those who, behind the scene, work hard to secure productive, efficient and effective meetings.
13. Finally I am very proud to, shortly, hand over the gavel to the next president of the TDB, who inherits intergovernmental machinery, predisposed - I believe - to success through constructive engagement and cooperation.

I would now like to move to agenda item 1, election of officers...