The Raúl Prebisch Lectures were instituted in 1982 by Mr. Gamani Corea, then Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to honor Dr. Raúl Prebisch, UNCTAD’s founding Secretary-General. Since 1982, a number of prominent thinkers in the field of trade and development, who have distinguished themselves for their contributions to economic and social development, have lectured at UNCTAD on topical issues. The first lecture was given by the late Dr. Raúl Prebisch himself.

Dr. Raúl Prebisch (1901-1986) was secretary-general of UNCTAD from 1965 to 1969. Previously, he was executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) (1948-1963), following a distinguished career in the Argentine Civil Service. He was known primarily for his work as a scholar specializing in international and development economics and his greatest contribution to economics is known as the Prebisch-Singer thesis, which found that the terms of trade for primary commodity exporters tended to deteriorate over time with respect to manufactured exporters.

... Leaving aside my personal involvement, I think the idea of these lectures is a most useful and timely one under present circumstances, because we need some illumination; our path remains obscure, especially with recent happenings in the field of international economic policy and in our national development. The idea is both useful and timely because we are facing not only the crisis of capitalism but also the crisis of ideologies, the serious crisis of those conventional theories which do not permit a correct interpretation of the realities of present events or a clear picture of what our course should be...

Raúl Prebisch, July 1982
1st Prebisch Lecture
THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM AND THE PERIPHERY
by Mr. Raul Prebisch, the first Secretary-General of UNCTAD, July 1982

2nd Prebisch Lecture
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, June 1983

3rd Prebisch Lecture
THE EMERGING PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND THE WORLD ECONOMY
by Dr. Saburo Okita, President, International University of Japan, July 1987

4th Prebisch Lecture
RESTRUCTURING IN THE USSR AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC RELATION
by Abel G. Aganbegyan, Principal Economic Adviser to the Government of USSR,
July 1989

5th Prebisch Lecture
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A NEW PARTNERSHIP
by Bernardo T.G. Chidzero, Enrique Iglesias, and Michel Rocard, February 1992

6th Prebisch Lecture
GLOBALIZATION, ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING
AND DEVELOPMENT
by Professor John H. Dunning, Professor of International Business State University
of New Jersey, Rutgers, April 1994

7th Prebisch Lecture
THE GLOBAL AGE: FROM A SCEPTICAL SOUTH
TO A FEARFUL NORTH
by Professor Jagdish Bhagwati and Arthur Lehman, Professor of Economics
and Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, April 1996
8th Prebisch Lecture
GLOBALIZATION SOCIAL CONFLICT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
by Dany Rodrik, Rafiq Hariri Professor of International Political Economy,
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, October 1997

9th Prebisch Lecture
TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM FOR DEVELOPMENT
by Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist,
The World Bank, October 1998

10th Prebisch Lecture
MARKETS, POLITICS AND GLOBALIZATION:
CAN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY BE CIVILIZED?
by Professor Gerald Karl Helleiner, Centre for International Studies University of Toronto, December 2000

11th Prebisch Lecture
TRIBUTE TO RAUL PREBISCH
by H.E. Fayza Aboulnaga, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt;
Mr. Gamani Corea, former Secretary-General of UNCTAD; H.E. Javad Zarif,
Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Iran, 2001

12th Prebisch Lecture
UNCTAD PAST AND PRESENT: OUR NEXT FORTY YEARS
by Mr. Rubens Ricupero Secretary-General of UNCTAD, September 2004

13th Prebisch Lecture
SOUTH AND EAST ASIA: LEADING THE WORLD ECONOMY
by Professor Lawrence R. Klein, Benjamin Franklin Professor Emeritus,
University of Pennsylvania, November 2005

14th Prebisch Lecture
GLOBALIZATION IN THE ERA OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University,
September 2009

Read the full text at
http://www.unctad.org/prebisch
The problem is that those who believe in the almost miraculous capacity of markets for self-regulation have trouble accepting international cooperation as necessary to impose limits on undisciplined market forces or to correct market imperfections.

Rubens Ricupero, September 2004

Civilizing the global economy will require steady and sustained change; it will probably take place incrementally rather than in Big Bangs. It will require a constructive mix of political statesmanship “above” and supportive political pressure”from below”.

Gerald Karl Helleiner, December 2000

We have learned in the last half-century that development is possible, but also that it is not inevitable. We have learned that development is not just a matter of technical adjustments, but a transformation of society.

Joseph Stiglitz, October 1998

Societies that benefit the most from integration with the world economy are those that have the complementary institutions at home that manage and contain the conflicts that economic interdependence triggers.

Dani Rodrik, October 1997

To the affluent the crisis means loss of additionally; to the poor a shrinking of the little they have.

Indira Gandhi, June 1983

We have been waiting a long time for the play of market forces, according to the leading theoreticians, to solve our problems of development and income distribution.

Raul Prebisch, July 1982