

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

**Opening Plenary**  
**General statements by regional groups**  
**Speaker: European Union**

**Monday, 16 September 2013**

*Not checked against delivery \**

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**European Union**

**UNCTAD**

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**60<sup>th</sup> SESSION TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
16-27 September 2013**

**EU Statement**

**Geneva, 16 September 2012**

*Check against delivery*

UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**60<sup>th</sup> Session Trade and Development Board**

**16-27 September 2013,**

**EU Statement - Opening Statement**

**Geneva, 16 September 2013**

Mr President,  
Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Trade and Development Board and are looking forward to working closely with you to ensure a successful Trade and Development Board (TDB) session.

We appreciate the dedication of the outgoing Presidents of the Trade and Development Board, Amb. Jüri Seilenthal (Estonia) and Amb. Mukhtar Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan), as well as that of the other outgoing Members of the Bureau, and we thank all of them fully for their work.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya for his appointment as Secretary-General of UNCTAD for a term of four years. We are looking forward to working closely with the new SG and his team and to engaging constructively with the Secretariat and the entire Membership. We are encouraged by the first exchanges held with Dr Kituyi where he expressed his willingness to focus on promoting consensus building to secure UNCTAD's independence and improving management and

administration issues. We welcome his inspired leadership and hope that his term will inaugurate a fruitful new page in the history of UNCTAD.

Our aim is to continue to support UNCTAD as an efficient organization and to optimise the impact of its activities. We are determined to play an active role, working closely with UNCTAD in the trade and development arena, and on interrelated issues, notably in the areas of investment, technical cooperation and sustainable development.

Mr President,

Despite significant progress made on the MDGs, in some cases the improvements have been insufficient and uneven. Therefore we must all maintain our full commitment to the Goals and intensify all efforts for their achievement by 2015, as well as prepare for post-2015. We support the agreed efforts deployed by UNCTAD to contribute to the post-2015 agenda in the trade and development area and with sustainable development at its core.

Trade policies make a major contribution to economic growth and development. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to supporting the integration of developing countries most in need into the global economy and international trading system. We believe that UNCTAD, based on its core mandate and thanks to its universal membership continues to represent a unique forum for a comprehensive development dialogue. UNCTAD remains well placed to promote the areas of investment and trade, and contribute to sustainable development, through its three pillars of activity (research and analysis, consensus building and technical assistance) and to ensure close cooperation with the other UN organisations as well as with the WTO, ITC, World bank, IMF and OECD.

We have always been actively involved in the LDC agenda, notably through the Everything but Arms scheme, providing duty-free quota-free access to the EU's single market, and through our support of the Aid for Trade initiative. The EU and its MS will

continue supporting LDCs' efforts to reach the ambitious target that half of them should be able to meet the graduation criteria by 2020. At the same time, we acknowledge that it is the responsibility of the LDCs to lead the way by integrating trade into their development strategy and implementing sound supporting policies to improve the business climate and tackle corruption. We are keen to continue working with LDCs and other countries most in need to help them achieve this objective and consider that UNCTAD should continue to pay particular attention to the needs of least developed countries, notably those in Africa.

As the Fourth Global Aid for Trade Review held in July in Geneva at the WTO emphasized, it is crucial to help developing countries, particularly the poorest, to fully integrate into global value chains as a leading determinant of growth. We welcome the participation of UNCTAD in the Aid for Trade Review and the contribution of the 2013 World Investment Report to the analysis of global value chains in their relation to investment and trade for development. We also appreciate the contribution of UNCTAD to the UN CEB Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacities.

Regional trade integration may enable trading partners to lower the cost of inputs and increase competitiveness of the local economy, thus helping them to integrate into regional and global value chains. Regional cooperation and integration create large markets and amongst other things help developing countries attract new Foreign Direct Investment and stimulate their interaction with local productive capacities. Against this background, we would like to thank UNCTAD for its report on "Inter-African Trade: Unlocking Private Sector Dynamism".

Intra-African trade presents a significant potential to promote employment and growth which is not yet fully exploited. An important factor to enhance intra-African trade is the reduction of border crossing times and the improvement of infrastructures. The aim is to bring trade costs and transport prices down through the implementation of trade facilitation. This is why the EU and its Member States continue to support a positive conclusion of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Bali this December.

The EU and its Member States welcome UNCTAD's active participation in the trade facilitation needs assessment process, in promoting implementation of trade facilitation reforms and in streamlining customs procedures through the ASYCUDA programme.

Mr President,

Turning now to the management of UNCTAD, the EU and its Member States support a timely and effective follow-up of the Review of Management and Administration by the Joint Inspection Unit. The focus on transparency, accountability and the achievement of results-based management within UNCTAD are elements which we strongly endorse. A close and regular follow-up of the implementation of the work plan prepared by the Secretariat, with updates in regular TDB sessions, is needed in the lead up to the 2016 Conference. Such management and administrative improvements are instrumental to increase the effectiveness and impact of UNCTAD's work so as to better achieve its objectives of promoting sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Regarding the Fiftieth Anniversary of UNCTAD to be celebrated next year, the European Union and its Member States would like to convey our best wishes to the people who have been working and cooperating with UNCTAD along these years for their commitment and their inspiration to carry out the mandate of the organisation.

Mr President, Distinguished colleagues,

Let me conclude by stating that the independence, relevance and efficiency of UNCTAD are of key importance for the European Union and its Member States. We would like the organisation to enhance its visibility and to focus in the areas within its mandate as a knowledge and policy advice broker. We recognise the key importance of UNCTAD in the trade and development arena and we are keen to work together with the membership, the new SG and the organisation as a whole, to address poverty reduction, promote the

integration of the Developing Countries in global trade and ensure sustainable development.

Finally, Mr. president, through you, we wish Dr. Kituyi the very best of luck and success over the coming four years.

I thank you for your attention.