

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Trade and Development Board  
Sixty-first session**

**Geneva, 15–26 September 2014**

**Opening Plenary  
General Statements**

**Speaker: United Kingdom**

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*Not checked against delivery \**

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Madam President,  
Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to elaborate on the UK's view of UNCTAD. I am delivering this statement on behalf of Karen Pierce, the UK's Ambassador to the UN and the WTO in Geneva. Unfortunately my Ambassador could not attend today's session.

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to align myself with the statement made by the EU Representative on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

I would also like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your election as President of the Trade and Development Board.

UNCTAD continues to have an important role in supporting developing countries integrate into the global trading system. This development organisation provides real value-added in its work on identifying barriers to investment and assisting developing countries to attract private investment. UNCTAD remains well placed to promote investment and trade and contribute to real sustainable development. Its research and technical assistance are valuable resources in helping developing countries gain access to the benefits of international trade.

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The World Investment Report, Asycuda customs reform programme and the work of the trade facilitation unit, are but a few examples of UNCTAD's excellent research work and technical assistance work.

The UK's Secretary of State for International Development has prioritised UK's development assistance to focus more on economic development, including trade. We are now building the most coherent and ambitious approach to economic development that we've ever had, with trade as one of the main pillars. The Secretary of State showed our commitment to this when she announced in January that by 2015/16, we plan to target £1.8 billion of our overseas development assistance budget on economic development. This more than doubles the amount spent in 2012/13.

We are strong supporters of the ambition of developing countries to benefit from international trade. That is why we spend more than £1 billion a year on aid for trade, especially in Africa and other low income countries.

The the UK Government as a whole, and the Department for International Development (DFID) in particular, are keen to see trade issues come out strongly in the post-2015 Development Agenda. UNCTAD has an important role to play in this agenda over the next two years and we welcome your

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contribution on how trade can support wider sustainable development objectives in the post-2015 environment.

We are very supportive of UNCTAD's commitment to continued improvement of its management and administrative structures particularly under the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Report from 2012. We were glad to hear from the Secretary General yesterday that UNCTAD has made some progress to start implementing some of the recommendations from the 2012 report. We realise that reforming an organisation takes a long time and we stand ready to support and work closely with the Secretary General on this. We also welcome UNCTAD's commitment to work closely with other UN organisations and in particular for there to be strong cooperation between UNCTAD, WTO and ITC.

DELIVRED BY KEBUR AZBAHA, FIRST SECRETARY

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