



European Union

Statement

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

62nd session of Trade and Development Board

14-25 September 2015

**Item 6: Evolution of the international trading system and its trends
from a development perspective**

Geneva, 21st September 2015

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

UNCTAD
62nd Session Trade and Development Board

14-25 September 2015,

EU statement

**Item 6: Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a
development perspective**

The European Union takes note of the paper by the UNCTAD secretariat and welcomes its focus on trade as a vector for inclusive growth and sustainable development – a goal which the EU shares and supports through its trade policy.

The paper provides a useful and clear description of the growth of global value chains; a helpful overview of recent macro-level trade trends and an important focus on the growing importance of south-south trade.

(At the same time, we feel that speculating as to the content and impacts of future regional trade agreements is not the best use of UNCTAD's expertise and resources, especially given that discussions are ongoing and that the precise nature of the agreements remains unclear. In a paper of this length, we would encourage UNCTAD to focus on more concrete areas of trade.)

The European Union shares the paper's interest in the impact of fragmented production processes across global value chains and the consequent potential for positive impacts on development, particularly as an opportunity for private businesses within developing countries to participate in the multilateral trading system.

In this regard, research that we have supported with the OECD on the topic of lifting barriers to developing countries' participation in value chains emphasises the enormous potential impact of domestic reforms in particular:

Low import tariffs, both at home and in export markets, engagement in regional trading agreements (RTAs), inward FDI openness, logistics

performance, including trade facilitation, intellectual property protection, quality of infrastructure and quality of institutions.

The EU and its member states stress their importance and support such reforms at the domestic level which must accompany and support the enabling environment at the international level as targeted by the report.

To conclude, let me emphasise that the European Union shares and supports the emphasis placed on the mutual compatibility, supportiveness and need to integrate trade and sustainable development policies – we strongly advocated this approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and it will continue to be a core component of our trade policy at all levels.