

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
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**Opening Plenary**

**Speaker: United States of America**

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*Not checked against delivery \**

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**Statement at UNCTAD Trade and Development Board  
U.S. Ambassador to UN Agencies in Geneva Betty E. King  
To be Delivered September 16, 2013**

Good Afternoon Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates.

First, I would like to again congratulate you Mr. President Tileuberdi, for your election to the Trade and Development Board.

I would also like to extend congratulations to the new Secretary General Dr. Kituyi. The United States is eager to work with you and the new Board President to advance what continues to be a realistic and important goal- the eradication of extreme poverty This goal is not only one of great importance to our LDC colleagues, but to all of us who sit here today. We look forward to the guidance of you both in steering this institution

toward meeting this objective- especially in light of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD.

The United States is pleased to participate in this year's TDB, with its focus on increasing the capacity of member countries to participate in the global economy. We would like to associate ourselves with the statement by JUSSCANZ and offer these additional remarks. We recognize the importance of this assistance, particularly in the aftermath of the global economic crisis and agree increasing the capacity of the least developed countries is a crucial step in growing their economies and creating opportunities for their citizens. The United States remains committed to leading in this effort.

The Aid for Trade programs continue to support trade capacity- building assistance in over 120 countries and regions. Our contributions to programs in competition policy, business environment, governance, and environment standards have

averaged about \$1.5 billion a year, with some programs, receiving increases of almost 30 percent last year.

U.S. technical cooperation with the East African Community has supported regional integration by helping reduce barriers at the borders; unify customs and revenue sharing authorities; and form public-private partnerships with American businesses to stimulate greater trade in goods under the United States' African Growth and Opportunity Act.

And through the Power Africa Initiative, the United States government is committing \$7 billion dollars toward the goal of doubling access to energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through the Power Africa Initiative, the United States provides technical assistance programs, financing and insurance, and competitions to help create power options for citizens in rural areas. It also supports companies bringing 10,000 megawatts of electricity to at least 20 million new households. This will have a direct

impact on African capacity to increase trade. We believe that these programs serve to complement what has become the crown jewel of UNCTAD- technical assistance and knowledge sharing.

Mr. President, the United States is eager to hear more about the ongoing implementation of the “work plan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD.” Last year, we shared the concerns of other members that the report lacked the depth and the urgency that we felt was required. Under your leadership, we hope to see the greater implementation of the JIU report recommendations. The U.S. is ready to engage in this effort and looks forward to hearing your progress report.

We should seize this opportunity to reinvigorate UNCTAD through a renewed focus on its core mandate and through increased transparency and accountability. The United States

stands ready to support the Secretariat as we work toward a world free of extreme poverty.

Thank you.