

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Trade and Development Board, Twenty-seventh special  
session  
Geneva, 22 March 2013**

**Opening Plenary  
Speaker: Qatar**

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**Statement of H.E. Mr. Hamad Al-Kawari**  
**Minister of Culture and Heritage of the State of Qatar**  
**President of UNCTAD XIII**

*As of 12 March 2013*

Mr. President.

1. Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation for the invitation for me to address this important special session of the Trade and Development Board. Allow me also to recognize and thank His Excellency Professor Rafael Roncagliolo Orbegoso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, for his presence at this very important occasion.

Mr. President.

2. When I assumed the Presidency of UNCTAD XIII, I assured you all of my personal commitment and that of the State of Qatar to remain fully engaged in UNCTAD and committed to the full and meaningful implementation of the outcomes from Doha. In subsequent forums, I reaffirmed my commitment to remain engaged as an active President of the Conference. It is therefore my great pleasure to give you a few highlights and a perspective on UNCTAD XIII and the way forward.
3. Allow me also to congratulate the Secretary General of UNCTAD for his wise and important words this morning. It is important to take stock and remember the past, with a view of appreciating the present, in order to build a better future. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD, this should be a time of joint celebration, of collective reflection, and of renewed commitment to at least another 50 years of a strong UNCTAD dedicated to the cause of development.
4. This is a heavy responsibility, one that must be worthy of. In so doing we must focus on the essence of our task: the true cause of development is about making peoples' lives better.
5. It was therefore with this clear vision and commitment to development in mind that Qatar offered to host UNCTAD XIII. Our commitment and responsibility came at an important time. With the global economic system in crisis, established economic assumptions in question, deadlock in the WTO Doha multilateral negotiations, the emergence of a multi-polar economic world and many regions including my own undergoing profound changes and transformations, UNCTAD XIII could not have happened under more challenging circumstances. The pressures to look inward were strong. Consequently, there was every danger that it would not be possible to arrive at a consensus - let alone the good consensus that you accomplished. You proved that with the right spirit and commitment, consensus and cooperation can and do prevail.
6. Your good faith, patience, and commitment to development will continue to be crucial in the years ahead, beginning with 2014 when we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD. We must work together to make the celebration memorable, marked by

meaningful contributions to the broader development discourse including the process leading to the articulation of the post-2015 development framework.

7. It is also fitting that at this special session we will express our appreciation and endorse the generous offer of the Government of Peru to host the conference. Your collective efforts, starting with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, should look towards the future and take the opportunity of the forthcoming conference in Peru to redefine the way forward, articulating a modern and contemporary vision of UNCTAD. Building on its solid foundation and sterling accomplishments, UNCTAD XIV can be the start of a new golden age for UNCTAD and a step in the beginning of a new golden age for development.
8. The task upon the President of the Trade and Development Board is therefore an important one, including building on the important achievements of the past to shepherd the process of consensus-building on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of UNCTAD. These celebrations, in my view, should yield substantive ideas that could form concrete contributions to the process to articulate the post-2015 development framework. While the post-2015 development framework should not be negotiated in Geneva, it is your collective responsibility to ensure that you contribute to the global efforts that culminate in the actual negotiations in New York.
9. It is in this broad panorama that our work will unfold, and our efforts will be applied eventually leading to UNCTAD XIV in Peru. At that time, we will once again gather at the highest level of UNCTAD to discuss the global economic situation, and the contributions that UNCTAD can make to accelerate development. In this regard, I would like to briefly share our own experience in hosting the conference.
10. I will say that from the start, it was not easy. Building a good consensus on difficult issues is never easy. Consequently we had to make a conscious effort to play our role as host as a bridge between regions and interests. We therefore sought to work very closely with the President of the Preparatory Committee and the UNCTAD secretariat to contribute to an atmosphere conducive to a fruitful negotiation.
11. That process resulted in two outcome documents intended to illuminate the path towards fully harnessing trade in the service of development. The Doha Mandate, the political declaration, in unprecedented brevity and precision observed the reality that if we as a global community are to eradicate poverty and bring about a fairer and more equitable social contract, we need to shape the global economy to support a new global consensus for development-centered globalization.
12. For its part, the negotiated outcome document represents a new mandate for UNCTAD. Indeed, the name of the document – the Doha Mandate – could not be clearer about the intention of member states: to place UNCTAD on a stronger and firmer footing to realize the objectives of development-centered globalization. This new mode of globalization, anchored on the principles of inclusiveness and sustainability, requires that we address the new realities that we face in today's world and overcome persistent challenges. UNCTAD can make important contributions in this regard. Indeed as stated in the Doha

Mandate, “policy makers are...looking for more effective ways to build more inclusive and sustainable outcomes, and to set the course for development-centred globalization”

13. The Doha Mandate therefore provides the basis for a new partnership among nations to strengthen their united resolve to realize a more equitable globalization, aimed at fostering more inclusive and sustainable development to realize the objective in the Charter of the United Nations “...to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”
14. In larger freedom. These are powerful words that must be fully appreciated in the context in which they are anchored. For people to be truly free, they must be liberated of the very basic fears and concerns that cloud the daily existence of the poor – shelter, food, education, healthcare. All of these basic needs and necessities require a minimum level of prosperity, so that people may focus on realizing their full potential as human beings.
15. This requires an approach to development that focuses promotes economic growth while ensuring that the human dimension is fully and adequately addressed. In today’s world, development can no longer be restricted purely to the economic field. It must be holistic in terms of economic coverage; and it must be holistic in its humanity.
16. The centrality of the human dimension was something that we were conscious of from the beginning. We recognized that the quadrennial conference is part of an ongoing and evolutionary process to advance the development agenda and its implementation. This required keeping focused on a continuing commitment to consensus driving the dialogue forward. We also sought to help establish - and maintain - a high level of trust and confidence in the mutual goodwill and good faith of all partners to the cause of development.
17. This spirit is present in this room. I believe that the building of consensus in Doha has contributed to a steadily growing sense of confidence among the Board, and this bodes well for the work you have ahead. You must maintain, and nurture this spirit, while at the same time exercise the moral and intellectual courage to venture into the unknown and unexplored.
18. This exploration into the world of ideas - and the intellectual rigor and tolerance which accompanies such an endeavor - will be especially important as you celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD. It will be an occasion to celebrate the successes and to explore ways and means of making things better for the poor and marginalized.
19. This is not just the task at hand. It is the just thing to do. These ideas will be invaluable as you also prepare for UNCTAD XIV. While we may have just concluded UNCTAD XIII, it is never too early to think about the future. This is especially true when circumstances and the forces of history align themselves in the way they have in our day, and in our age, presenting us with truly historic opportunities to make a major impact.
20. Indeed, as we in UNCTAD consider the vastness of the work ahead, let us not forget that we are part of a UN-wide process, and indeed a concerted effort by humanity, to redefine

development, and therefore the future of millions around the globe. Let us hope that we will embrace wisdom and espouse the courage that will bring about meaningful change - including a vision of development based not only on poverty alleviation, but more importantly on creating prosperity and opportunity;

21. Your collective contribution to the consensus reached at Doha has helped place the intergovernmental machinery on a constructive track, and I understand that while the work after Doha has been challenging, there has been an intensification of the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation. I am confident this will be sustained and intensified as you work towards accomplishing even greater deeds.
22. Allow me to close, Mr. President, by recognizing the other important task this morning, which is the transition to the new President of the Trade and Development Board, His Excellency Ambassador Mukhtar Tileuberdi of Kazakhstan. He has much to accomplish, and much to live up to, and I am sure that he will succeed and leave his own mark on the office. He follows his illustrious predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Juri Seilenthal of Estonia. Ambassador Juri is well known to me - I first met him in Doha where he was one of Ambassador Maruping's "Dream Team" so it was no surprise that he would excel as President of the Trade and Development Board, as he did as one of the fathers of the Doha outcomes. Ambassador Juri has accomplished much and, as he ends his tenure, I along with others will look to him to make continued contributions to the important work of UNCTAD.
23. Thank you Mr. President.