



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General  
1 June 2012

Original: English

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### Thirteenth session

Doha, Qatar  
21–26 April 2012

## The Doha Manar\*

We, the member States of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, gathered in Doha, Qatar, from 21 to 26 April 2012, for the thirteenth session of the Conference, agree on the following declaration, hereinafter referred to as the Doha Manar:

1. Together, as a collection of sovereign nations, we have endeavoured to construct a shared, interdependent and prosperous world through increased economic, political and social processes. By working to maximize the opportunities arising from globalization in international trade and investment, we have sought to promote economic growth and development with particular attention to reducing the inequalities between us and within our nations, and to improving our capacities to fulfil common purposes and exercise more effective and responsible stewardship of our natural and planetary resources. Above all, we have sought to fulfil, individually and collectively, our peoples' aspirations to live in peace and to enjoy in fullness lives that are rich and diverse, and ever more stable and secure.

2. We commend UNCTAD as the focal point of the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. It has made a substantial contribution over half a century, from 1964 to 2012, through its three pillars, to advancing discourse on development and to enhancing the beneficial integration of developing countries into the global economy. We reiterate our commitment to UNCTAD.

3. We share the belief that through ever deeper economic cooperation we can make a better world by overcoming the divisions, while respecting the differences, that have marked us in the past; that we can and we must unleash new productive forces in order to raise living standards everywhere and to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the most vulnerable communities and countries; and that we can best inspire hope for the future by creating opportunities, capacities and decent jobs for people everywhere, especially

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\* A manar is a source of strong, shining light that can easily be recognized from a distance and that helps to guide travellers, whether their means of travel is by sea or land. The word "manar" is also used to identify persons or institutions that disseminate knowledge and enlightenment to others. The word, no matter where it is used or how it is used, refers to guidance and direction.

youth and women, to realize their full potential. The winds of change blowing in many parts of the world today attest to the desire of populations for responsive policies that foster participatory and inclusive approaches to development towards achieving prosperity for all. We also see the contribution of the private sector as important in this regard.

4. Thanks in part to globalization, we have at our disposal the capacities and the resources to eradicate extreme poverty everywhere. Therefore, it is a shared moral responsibility to take action as we have committed to in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are also aware of the risks associated with globalization. Recent experience in the global economy – especially the economic challenges and the fragile recovery as negative impacts of the international financial and economic crisis – has reminded us that globalization and its impact on development remains a work in progress. The successes, and risks, of globalization have sensitized us to new concerns about the capacity of our institutional framework for economic governance, the quality of development, the sustainability of our consumption of global resources, and our capacity for production and stewardship of global public goods. We affirm our commitment to work together to continue to address these challenges and concerns in order to build a more development-centred globalization towards more inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

5. We wish to thank the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his report to the Conference. It has contributed to our discussions, and in articulating our common cause in going forward towards placing primacy on the development impact of globalization.

6. Our deliberations at Doha have clustered around four major themes relating to development-centred globalization. Firstly, we agree on the need to enhance the enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable growth and development. In this regard, international trade is an engine of economic growth and socio-economic development. The multilateral trading system must remain open, rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive to serve especially as a bulwark against all forms of protectionism. The successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Agenda remains crucial. Accession to WTO by developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), and countries with economies in transition, enhances the universality of the trading system. A robust and development-oriented multilateral trading system is essential. In addition, the efforts towards appropriate reform and continued improvement of the international financial system are, we recognize, as difficult as they are urgent, and are the shared responsibility of all.

7. The elaboration of appropriately targeted and calibrated national development objectives and strategies, that mainstream trade and investment policies, remains an enduring concern. In this direction, promoting value addition and economic diversification, especially in commodity-dependent developing countries, is central to development strategies for building resilience. Also, effective macroeconomic and debt-management policies contribute to fostering debt sustainability and economic development. Likewise, effective domestic resource mobilization is needed together with international financial flows; at the same time, it reduces countries' dependence on and exposure to such external flows.

8. Secondly, we concur on the need to enhance all forms of cooperation and partnership for trade and development. Partnerships can help focus national and international efforts, including between the public and private sectors, on enhancing the participation of developing countries in international trade in goods and services. It can also help build productive capacities, link production processes across borders, disseminate know-how, and promote structural transformation. In this regard, effective development cooperation, including development finance and related initiatives such as Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs, can make important contributions.

Furthermore, regional and interregional cooperation and integration among developing countries, including South–South cooperation, and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while complementing North–South cooperation, can enhance the quality of development cooperation and create opportunities for linking up with global supply chains.

9. Thirdly, we affirm that the world economy faces a series of persistent and emerging challenges, and that remedial policies and actions, tailored to local capabilities and conditions, are required in order to address these challenges. Globalization both enables and is enabled by profound changes in the technological basis and structure of productive activity. Hence, the development of a strong science, technology and innovation capacity, together with effective information and communications technology, are important aspects of capabilities for mobilizing gains from the globalized and knowledge-based economy of the twenty-first century. In addition, the development of physical and soft infrastructure, including transport and trade logistics, is particularly important in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate production and trade and to attract investment.

10. Among the challenges, the myriad economic and development effects of changing environmental conditions – including climate change – underline the necessity and urgency of sustainable development policies. The protection and preservation of our common environment, including addressing climate change, is a major global challenge for today's generation to create a better future for tomorrow's generation. Also, non-tariff barriers are gaining importance in international trade, and therefore concerted efforts are needed to address them. The development of competition policies remains important for fostering a competitive environment and preventing anticompetitive practices. Promoting gender empowerment is a major priority so as to harness the full potential of our population in support of fuller human, economic and social development.

11. Fourthly, we agree that promoting investment, entrepreneurship and related development policies helps to build productive capacities and foster sustained economic growth. We must make investment, including foreign direct investment, more productive and conducive to development by ensuring that growth is accompanied by progressive structural transformation and economic diversification. Addressing the challenges of poverty, of food and energy insecurity and of global warming without a significant rise in productive investments will be unsuccessful. To that end, stable and predictable investment climates that, *inter alia*, promote entrepreneurship, competitiveness, and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises are imperative. In addition, technological improvement, including through the diffusion of technology, can provide new opportunities for businesses to improve their competitiveness.

12. We also reiterate our commitment to continue to engage in the efforts of our parent body, the United Nations General Assembly, to enhance the development work of the United Nations system. This includes contributions to and follow-up on outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences, including the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and a future post-MDG 2015 framework for development.

13. Development is a universal concern today, and development-centred globalization is our common cause. We recognize the need to make our common economic life more conducive to progressive structural change, more productive of inclusive and sustainable growth and development, and more effective in fostering broad-based inclusion in a new and more robust social contract. We are also cognizant of the differences in capabilities and resources available to nations in different development circumstances, which mean that nations will have different roles in building our common future. But we

must all participate equitably in shaping the global economy to support this new consensus for development-centred globalization.

14. It is our firm conviction that the UNCTAD beacon for development since 1964 will be continued in the next four years with the Doha Manar for inclusive and sustainable growth and development. This consensus is based on the foundations of our common aspirations, as well as our common concerns and responsibilities, and our resolve to work together in a renewed spirit of partnership, drawing on empirical evidence and peer-reviewed analysis, open to the diversity of national experiences and values, and cognizant of recent events and emerging challenges. We also recognize the need to strengthen UNCTAD and the impact of its work by enhancing its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability, and building partnerships and promoting greater synergy and complementarity with other relevant international organizations. Let us move forward together towards UNCTAD XIV with this consensus on development-centred globalization as our guide.

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