



Ministerial round table

20 October 2025
Assembly Hall
3–4.30 p.m.



Reimagining trade: A broader path to development

Description

International trade is critical for economic growth in developing countries, driving job creation, investment and public revenue to finance development, among others. Trade policy can also be leveraged to promote broader development goals such as poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic diversification. However, the predictability of the trade policy paradigm within the international trading system has been gradually eroded by the need to respond to growing imbalances, shocks and shifting policies. Such developments disproportionately affect developing countries.

Discussions at this round table, including to guide the future work of UNCTAD in reimagining an international trade system with development at its core, will address how trade policy can adapt to emerging global realities and promote development beyond export growth. Two subpanels will explore the role of domestic policies and the importance of a supportive international framework.

Programme

Opening remarks: Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Panel 1, with participation of ministers and heads of international organizations

Creating a global trade policy framework favourable for development

Questions

- In the light of the current changes and growing uncertainty in the international trading system, how do these developments affect the ability of developing countries to leverage trade for development and what are the most effective ways to ensure that trade effectively supports inclusive and sustainable development?
- How can regional and South–South cooperation be harnessed to support trade for better development? How can policymakers ensure that sectoral initiatives contribute to this process?

Panel 2, with participation of ministers and heads of international organizations

Policies to leverage trade for more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes

Questions

- How can the trade agenda promote export growth that drives broader sustainable development outcomes?
- Which policies are required in order for trade to contribute to socially inclusive employment outcomes and environmentally sustainable development? How can UNCTAD support the alignment of the multilateral trade agenda with development priorities?

Moderator: To be determined

Format: Davos-style

Interpretation

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian

Contact

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