

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Opening Plenary

**Speaker: United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**

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Mr President,

Allow me to align myself to the statement made by the EU Delegation on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

My Trade Minister Lord Livingston, and Secretary of State for International Development, Justine Greening, send their congratulations and would have liked to have been here themselves, however they were required to meet with Premier Li and the Chinese delegation in London with our Prime Minister.

I would like to echo the previous speakers in thanking UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for addressing this special session of the Trade and Development Board to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Secretary General Ban, Dr Kituyi, you are both longstanding advocates of the benefits of trade for development, as part of wider inclusive economic development. The contribution of UNCTAD to help achieve this remains as true today as it did fifty years ago.

UNCTAD can play an important role in helping developing countries identify opportunities and manage risks in their national efforts to grow through trade and broader economic growth. UNCTAD remains well placed to promote the areas of investment and trade, and contribute to sustainable development, through its research and analysis and technical assistance.

Mr President,

As you know, the UK is a strong supporter of international development. Last year we were delighted to become the first G7 country to achieve the 0.7% target of national expenditure on official development assistance. This is over \$14 billion expenditure in 2013.

Specifically on aid for trade (or trade-related development assistance), the UK continues to spend approximately \$1.5bn per year to help break down trade barriers and costs, particularly in the Least Developed Countries and in Africa.

The UK has been active in promoting the UN development agenda. My Prime Minister co-chaired the 27 member UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. The panel's bold and optimistic report states clearly that we can and must eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. We recognise the contribution of the UNCTAD Secretariat to this ongoing work and encourage them to continue to help define the role of trade in achieving sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement reached at the WTO Ninth Ministerial Conference will add \$100bn to global GDP, \$10bn of which will accrue to sub-Saharan Africa. The UK stands ready to provide assistance where needed and over the past two years alone we spent almost \$78 million annually on Trade facilitation programmes.

Mr President,

I would like to take advantage of this occasion to reaffirm our support for the work of UNCTAD so that it may better honour its mandate and reach its important objectives.

I would also like to thank the UNCTAD Secretariat, past and present, for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you.