

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL COMMODITIES FORUM

7-8 April 2014

Opening Ceremony

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

By

H.E. Triyono Wibowo

President, Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD

This statement has been made available in the language and form in which it was received.
The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of
UNCTAD.

**UNCTAD GLOBAL COMMODITIES FORUM
7-8 April 2014**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
By H.E. Triyono Wibowo,
President, Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD**

*Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

1. On behalf of UNCTAD and the Trade and Development Board, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2014 Global Commodities Forum. This is the fifth GCF organized by the UNCTAD's Special Unit on Commodities. Among the member states, we have come to look forward to the planning of the GCF, and to the event itself, as it presents us with challenging themes, which are debated by experts from diverse backgrounds. This year's Forum is no different, proposing an engaging programme of speakers to address the overall theme of "Global value chains, transparency and commodity-based development."

2. UNCTAD hosted the first Global Commodities Forum in 2010, as part of the organization's renewed commitment to commodities issues after its Accra conference in 2008. At the time, the global financial crisis had contributed to high and volatile commodities prices, which, among other consequences, threatened the food security of populations in many commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs). It was in this context that member states at the UNCTAD XII conference in 2008, mandated the organization to create the Special Unit on Commodities (to replace the erstwhile Commodities Branch) as an autonomous Unit reporting directly to the Secretary General. This decision was part of an overall effort of the

Conference to reinvigorate UNCTAD's commodities' mandate to conduct research, provide policy advice and organize consensus-building events such as the Global Commodities Forum, to address the resurgent challenges, faced by CDDCs, related to the production and trade of commodities.

3. The themes of the first two Fora responded to the tense state of global commodity markets after 2008, addressing the consequences of phenomena such as speculation, volatility and the financialization of commodity markets. In 2012, the Forum examined how CDDCs could convert windfall revenues from the commodity price boom into durable development. And last year, the Forum focused on recommitting to rural and agricultural development, after decades of underinvestment in the sector.

4. In the 2014 Global Commodities Forum, we are pleased to examine two new commodity-related governance issues facing CDDCs, namely:

How to employ global value chain strategies to achieve technological upgrading and structural transformation in their economies, as well as create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for their citizens?
AND

On behalf of their citizens, how to ensure transparency and accountability in the collection of commodities revenues, and in their development-oriented investment.

5. Both of these concepts contained in this year's them - global value chains and transparency - are topical in our work at UNCTAD. Therefore we look forward to the discussions and outcomes from the various sessions, which will help guide UNCTAD's work on these topics that, work that will

also contribute to expanding the policy advice options it can offer to its member states and other collaborators.

6. It is also my hope that participants and audience members will find the outcomes from the 2014 Forum enriching and relevant to their work.

7. I would now like to give the floor to Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, to make his opening statement. Dr. Kituyi you have the floor.

[Opening statement of Dr. Kituyi]

I thank Dr. Kituyi for his statement.

8. I now have the pleasure to invite our first inaugural panellist, Mr. Michael Møller, Acting Head, United Nations Office at Geneva. Excellency you have the floor.

[Presentation by Michael Møller]

Thank you Excellency for your thought provoking introduction.

9. It is my pleasure now to turn our second panellist Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre. Ms. Gonzalez you have the floor.

[Presentation by Arancha González]

Thank you Ms. Gonzalez for your very interesting remarks.

10. This concludes the opening ceremony. We will take up our keynote session shortly and it will be moderated by Mr. Edward Harris, Head of Communications, Africa Progress Panel.