



# UNCTAD 14

## Nairobi, 17–22 July 2016

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



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### General Debate

Statement by Ambassador of Italy to Kenya

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Speaker: H.E. Mauro Massoni

*Not checked against delivery\**

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\* This statement is 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.

XIV SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
(Nairobi, 17-22 July 2016)

NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC  
delivered by the Head of the Italian Delegation, H.E. Mauro Massoni,  
Ambassador of Italy to Kenya

Ms. President of UNCTAD XIV  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first of all warmly thank the Government of Kenya and UNCTAD for their warm hospitality and for the effort made in organizing this Conference.

I would like to use this opportunity to make some general remarks, in addition to the Statement delivered by the EU that my Country fully supports.

Not very differently from the last Ministerial Conference, four years ago in Doha, UNCTAD XIV takes place at a continued difficult time for the world's economy. Economic and financial instability, debt and investment crises, volatile commodities prices, are all posing great challenges and often creating obstacles to development worldwide. At the same time, a new geography of world trade is being defined by the rising role of new important players, a group of highly dynamic developing countries that hold an increasing share of international world trade and investment, and by the rapid expansion of the South-South and triangular trade. Many developing partners have furthered their integration into the world economy and become more globally competitive, while others still lag behind, in particular the Least Developed Countries.

This Ministerial Conference is our first political gathering, after last year successful adoption of the 2030 Agenda and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. We should not miss this occasion to make UNCTAD a more purposeful organization to the service of the SDGs. We share a great responsibility and a tremendous opportunity to inform and adapt the mandate of UNCTAD to the SDGs.

Italy is ready to do its part. With this aim, we have engaged in an open and constructive dialogue especially with the African Countries: last May, we hosted in Rome the first Italy-Africa Ministerial Conference with the focus on the development of this Continent. Moving from it, the Italian G7 Presidency next year will keep the 2030 Agenda at the center of its works, focusing on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and on the issues stemming from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (decarbonization of the economy) and the legacy of Expo Milan 2015 (food security and global health). We want all our initiatives and actions to be consistent with these milestone frameworks.

Let me now refer to some major objectives that UNCTAD should focus on.

The first one is the gender gap, not just for moral and ethical reasons but for good business reasons: providing equal access to resources for women would increase their productivity by 20-30 percent and would increase agricultural output by 3-4 percent, thus helping to achieve economic growth that benefits all.

The private sector has also a crucial role to play in order to enhance the opportunities for the developing countries, by encouraging competitiveness and efficiency, and by promoting employment and diversification of the economy. Therefore, Italy supports UNCTAD's initiatives in the field of private sector development, designed to address the specific needs of the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

UNCTAD should also focus on ensuring that trade liberalization translates into an opportunity to draw countries, and foremost the LDCs, out of the poverty trap. Developing countries need to be properly equipped in order to fully exploit the opportunities created by trade openness. We consider particularly valuable the technical assistance that UNCTAD, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations, provides in this regard. Moreover, UNCTAD has always been the institutional forum where the many-fold interconnections between trade and development may be debated. This, however, should not create unnecessary duplications and overlapping with what is negotiated within WTO.

Essential for the development of the poorest countries is also the issue of external debt. The idea of Principles and Guidelines for sustainable lending practices is an idea to which Italy has significantly contributed.

We also recognize that cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, decent work, sustainable development through a green economy and respect for human rights should receive the utmost consideration in UNCTAD's work. We attach great importance to the issue of reducing the transfer costs of remittances and facilitate money transfers. We also deem that good governance is an essential tool for the economic development of all countries.

In closing, we think that the identification of UNCTAD's priorities should be based on its comparative advantage. Efforts should be concentrated on development-oriented liberalization and capacity-building, avoiding any waste of resources and duplication of activities and enhancing UNCTAD's effectiveness, transparency and accountability, in line with the recommendations of the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN and according to the RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT (RBM). Along with the view of the EU, we deem that the future work programme should be built on the Accra Accord from UNCTAD XII in 2008 and from the Doha outcome in 2012. The work of UNCTAD should not overlap with, and be consistent with the work of other International organizations: the WTO, the World Bank, the IMF and the OECD, and ensure close cooperation with them.

While it is of the utmost importance that UNCTAD remains a source of independent research and analysis, we believe that the role and the future activities of the organization should remain within the existing resources and its core three-pillars mandate: facilitating consensus-building, carrying out research and providing technical assistance, in a responsive way to the needs of its membership.

Thank you for your attention.