

73rd Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board, 14-25 September 2026

National Statement Germany

Minister-Counsellor Clemens Recker

Agenda Item 8: UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

Dear President, Acting Secretary General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

Germany aligns itself with the statement held on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) face tremendous challenges, including poverty, hunger, and inequality, exacerbated by climate change and geopolitical instability. That is why the Federal Government of Germany remains a committed partner to LDCs.

Germany works with 27 of the 44 LDCs in Africa and Asia, meaning that over half of all LDCs directly benefit from our engagement, primarily in Africa.

Germany has been a leading donor to LDCs over the past decade and remains a committed partner in making a rule-based world trading order that is more accessible to LDCs.

We must acknowledge the shifts in power, rising competition, and growing global risks, which have significantly affected development policy and funding priorities. Enhancing the capabilities of LDCs to effectively deal with challenges, including poverty, hunger, and inequality, exacerbated by climate change and geopolitical instability, is more critical than ever. Hence, Germany's commitment to the Doha Programme is essential for our work.

Under these circumstances, LDCs face structural challenges such as low productivity, a concentration on a small number of

export sectors, and a lack of trade and quality infrastructure, often made worse by conflict and fragility.

Germany is committed to fostering economic cooperation that promotes local value creation, which is vital for the economic stability of Least Developed Countries and their integration into the global economy via global supply chains.

LDCs need stable conditions that enable economic growth. Through technical cooperation, we promote local value addition, access to markets and enhance international trade. UNCTAD is an important partner for Germany in our partner countries.

Here in Geneva, we support the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) and the 'Enhanced Integrated Framework' (EIF) as a multi-donor programme that strengthens LDC trade capacity by removing structural and supply-side barriers. We will also continue our long-standing partnership with the ITC, supporting SMEs in the Global South. Our aim remains to improve LDC integration into world trade and promote economic growth and poverty reduction.

Let me mention two specific examples:

- Since 2019, the Alliance for Product Quality in Africa has been enhancing the quality of export products in selected African countries, including LDCs such as Ethiopia and Rwanda. The Alliance supports businesses in establishing robust quality management systems, ensuring compliance with EU import standards through necessary certifications.
- The Global and German Alliances for Trade Facilitation have been implementing projects across various African and Asian countries, including LDCs such as Mauritania, since 2017. Their primary objective is to lower trade costs for developing nations by facilitating the effective implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

Germany reaffirms its commitment to LDCs including preparation for graduating LDCs in their transition. We support LDC resilience and stability and contribute to their economic growth for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable.

Thank you for your attention.