

**73rd Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board, 14th – 25th
September 2026, Geneva**

National Statement Germany

Minister-Counsellor Clemens Recker

Agenda Item 3: General Debate

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.

Our thanks go to the President, Ambassador Sánchez-Fung, for
his excellent work and his committed guidance over the past
year in a globally shifting economic environment.

I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Fancy Chepkemai
Too (Kenya), for your election as President of the 73rd session
of the Trade and Development Board as well as all the newly
elected Vice-Presidents.

We are meeting at a time of deep global uncertainty, marked by
geopolitical tensions, fragile global supply chains, and
inequalities between nations. Disruptions to shipping through
the Strait of Hormuz, and most recently also the Bab al Mandeb
and the southern Red Sea, together with concerns over energy
and fertilizer supplies, raised energy, transport, logistics and
production costs and inflation determinate the year 2026 so far.

The most vulnerable economies are particularly affected by oil, fertilizer and cereal import shocks.

We would like to thank Secretary-General Grynszpan for her strong leadership and support her call for a diplomatic initiative to ensure the safe, free and unrestricted transit passage for merchant vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, while simultaneously protecting the civil infrastructure that forms the backbone of global energy, fertilizer and trade flows.

However, the policy task is broader than restoring the trade route through the Strait of Hormuz. Particularly, vulnerable economies need support to provide households affordable fertilizer, food and fuel prices. We need investments in systems that reduce their country's exposure before the next external shock. This also requires forward-looking analysis and planning.

In this regard, we thank UNCTAD for the in-depth reports and studies on global trade flows, commodity markets and financial trends. They are valuable sources of information for us to support fair trade, primarily between North and South, and the implementation of the Geneva Consensus.

The World Investment Report 2026 reflects that, despite increased investment and trade activity in the first half of 2026, development is becoming increasingly regionally and sectorally unbalanced. Companies today place greater emphasis on the resilience of global supply chains, technological competencies and political frameworks when choosing locations.

Furthermore, we are in the midst of a fundamental technological transformation.

AI infrastructure, digital technologies and electric mobility drove strong growth in technology-intensive goods in the first half of 2026. By contrast, traditional industries such as chemicals, iron and steel are confronted with high energy prices that led to contracted trade flows. Governments are requested to find adequate solutions to rebalance economic and societal developments and to stimulate comprehensive investments.

The example of artificial intelligence shows that this new technology has the potential to support solutions to important human questions – such as food security, healthcare and disaster management. In this respect, this development is also an opportunity for the countries of the global South. We support

UNCTAD in advocating for global cooperation to steer AI towards shared goals and values.

The work of UNCTAD is more important today than ever. In addition to stimulating investments, we need a multilateral framework that understands trade as a lever for growth and sustainable development. For us, UNCTAD is a key forum to discuss issues of trade and development and as a trade and investment facilitator.

We thank UNCTAD and the co-host Qatar for organising the World Investment Forum in Doha at the end of October 2026.

We must make the best use of UNCTAD as an important multilateral organization to accelerate progress in achieving the sustainable development goals and to make the system work for the benefit of all. Germany has been engaged in cooperation with UNCTAD, as one of its major bilateral donors over the past years.

The implementation of the Geneva Consensus continues to be the basis for our work over the next years, while in the context of the UN80 reform we are aiming to ensure that the UN

remains resilient and functional and also efficient and fit for purpose in today's world. Germany is ready to continue to play an active part in UNCTAD in the years ahead.

Thank you.