

UNCTAD Third Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

18 June 2014 (10:00–13:00 hrs., Room XXVI, Palais des Nations)

CONCEPT NOTE



The UNCTAD Secretary-General's Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda is an informal, open and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue between member States, international organizations, private sector and civil society. The theme of Third Geneva Dialogue is "Trade as a means of implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda" and will be held as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of UNCTAD.

1 Background

1. "The extensive development of equitable and mutually advantageous international trade creates a good basis for the establishment of neighbourly relations between States, helps to strengthen peace and an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding among nations, and promotes higher living standards and more rapid economic progress in all countries of the world." (The First Act of the UNCTAD I, (E/CONF.46/141, Vol. I), June 1964)
2. The Final Act of the UNCTAD I spelled out this message in its preamble. Fifty years on, in the midst of global deliberations to agree on the "goals", the related "targets" and the "indicators" required for realizing "the Future We Want" at the planetary level from 2015 onwards, the role of international trade in enhancing social and economic progress while ensuring environmental sustainability remains as vital as ever.
3. In this context, in the ongoing process towards formulating a set of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the word "trade" specifically appears as one of the issues linked to "the means of implementation and global partnership"¹ to achieve the SDGs.

2 Issues for the Open Dialogue: Trade as a means of implementation for sustainable development

4. The Third Geneva Dialogue will be an occasion to: (i) Clarify how "trade" is being treated in the ongoing New York processes such as the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance* and the Open Working Group on SDGs**; and (ii) Exchange views on what actions should be taken to ensure that trade continues to function as an effective means of implementation, including but not exclusively in a form of targets and indicators, towards achieving the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

3 Draft Agenda

Moderated by: Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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| 10.00-10.15 | Opening remarks by Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Minister of Culture of, Arts and Heritage, Qatar, and President of UNTAD XIII |
| 10.15-10.30 | Special address by Leonel Fernández, Former President of the Dominican Republic |
| 10.30-11.00 | The view of the "New York processes" on the role of trade in implementing sustainable development goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing: Pertti Majanen, Ambassador of Finland Discussion |
| 11.00-11.30 | Trade as an enabler of sustainable development goals: How to capture it in the SDG framework? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claire Melamed, Head of Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme, Overseas Development Institute, UK Discussion |
| 11.30-13.00 | Open Dialogue on the Theme |

¹ See the Working Document of the Open Working Group the 11th session. (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>)

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*The **Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance** has been carried out in consultation with relevant international/regional financial institutions and other stakeholders to, among others, assess financing needs and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. ** The **Open Working Group** is a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), following the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Rio+20 outcome states that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate, and should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.