



UNCTAD XIII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

DOHA - QATAR 21-26 APRIL 2012



PRE-EVENT

POLICY DIALOGUE: REDEFINING THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TOMORROW'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE

26-27 MARCH 2012, 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Room XVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

BACKGROUND

The landscape of international trade has changed considerably over the past three decades. Successive trade liberalization at unilateral, multilateral and regional/bilateral levels, progress in information and communications technology and in transport, and fluid capital mobility – all facilitate today's intricate web of trade flows, particularly flows of intermediate goods through global value chains. We face the new realities of international trade. The new realities are having a transformative influence over the scope of trade policy. In addition, there is increasing concern that the gains from the past three decades of trade liberalization have not been distributed equitably.

Looking ahead to tomorrow's international trade, and with a view to achieving more inclusive growth from trade, how should governments react? What are the new challenges to trade policy and to trade policymaking processes, and how can they be tackled?

PURPOSE

As a pre-event to UNCTAD XIII in Doha, Qatar (21-26 April 2012), trade policymakers, opinion leaders, researchers, and representatives of the private sector and of civil society will gather to brainstorm the trade policy agenda for the international trade of tomorrow, with a view to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade. The meeting will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Anabel González, Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica.

OUTCOME

XIII, particularly in connection with Ministerial Round Table 3 on "Strengthening all forms of cooperation and partnership for trade and development, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation" (Tuesday, 24 April 2012).

ORGANIZATION

The Policy Dialogue will be conducted as an interactive debate, within a broad framework of "brainstorming". Each session will start with the presentation of divergent views by the panellists, followed by discussions by all the participants.

AGENDA

Monday, 26 March 2012

Opening:

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Ms. Anabel González, Chair, and Minister of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica

Session 1: Trade policy for inclusive growth in the twenty-first century economy

Moderator: Mr. Robert Wolfe, Professor, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, Canada

Session 1.A: Mapping the challenges for government

Mr. Christophe Bellmann, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

Mr. Bernard Hoekman, World Bank

Ms. Vera Thorstensen, Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Brazil

Mr. Craig VanGrasstek, Harvard Kennedy School

Interactive debate

Session 1.B: Export diversification in the twenty-first century

Mr. Nadir Merah, African Union

Mr. José Guilherme Reis, World Bank

Mr. Abdulaziz Sager, Gulf Research Centre

Mr. John Malcolm Spence, Office of Trade Negotiations, CARICOM Secretariat

Mr. Ari Van Assche, HEC, Montreal, Canada

Interactive debate

Session 2: The government and the business sector in trade policymaking

Moderator: Mr. Peter Draper, South African Institute of International Affairs

Mr. Stefano Bertasi, International Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Isidoro Hodara, Universidad ORT, Uruguay

Ms. Selina E. Jackson, World Bank

Mr. Francis Mbroh, African Export-Import Bank

Interactive debate

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

Session 3: An inclusive process for trade policymaking

Moderator: Mr. Mark Halle, Director of Trade and Investment, and European Representative, International Institute of Sustainable Development

Ms. Isolda Agazzi, Alliance Sud

Ms. Esther Busser, International Trade Union Confederation, Geneva office

Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, CUTS International

Ms. Khemani Pholsena, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. Raymond Saner, CSEND

Interactive debate

Session 4: Twenty-first century trade agenda

Moderator: Mr. Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Evian Group @ IMD

Mr. Robert Wolfe (Moderator of session 1)

Mr. Peter Draper (Moderator of session 2)

Mr. Mark Halle (Moderator of session 3)

Mr. Nicolas Imboden, IDEAS Centre, Geneva (to be confirmed)

Mr. Martin Khor, South Centre (to be confirmed)

Mr. Harsha Vardhana Singh, World Trade Organization

Interactive debate

Closing: Chair's summary and open discussion

DOCUMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD XIII – Development-led globalization: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Development Paths (UNCTAD(XIII)/1)

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