



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Slovakia

Statement by Rastislav Chovanec, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, at the General Debate of UNCTAD XVI, October 20, 2025

Dear Secretary-General,

Dear Distinguished Guests,

It is an honour to take the floor on behalf of the Slovak Republic at this sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Slovakia welcomes the main theme of UNCTAD XVI: „Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development “. I am particularly proud of words (I would like to emphasize these words) “equitable” and “inclusive”, because such approach is a road to success, to sustainable development and better world for future generations.

UNCTAD's mandate provides a unique platform for dialogue among partners from different parts of the world. Despite differences in size of our territories, population, gross domestic product and other indicators we are all equal partners here, every voice counts and matters. We should further build on this equal partnership pattern, turn it into win-win cooperation strategies and use our comparative advantages for global prosperity.

Slovakia supports UNCTAD's main focus on the most vulnerable economies, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs). UNCTAD can play a crucial role in helping developing countries identify comparative advantages in productive sectors and diversify their economies. Opening their markets would promote trade facilitation and foster regional economic integration.

Furthermore, UNCTAD has a strong potential to boost the cooperation between the private and the public sector and thus contribute to equitable and inclusive approach. Public-private partnerships and innovative financial instruments have proven effective for involvement of the private sector in the economies of developing countries.

As a country with a highly open, industrial economy, Slovakia counts on a predictable and rules-based multilateral trading system. Open trade, resilient global value chains and sustainable investment flows are essential not only for our economic growth, but also for the prosperity of our partners.

Slovakia's own experience of economic transformation has shown that integration into global markets, combined with sound domestic reforms, can deliver tangible progress in living standards and opportunities. We believe that trade and investment must continue to serve as engines of inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

As a donor of development cooperation Slovakia for over 20 years seeks to share its transition ad experience and to support our partners in building stronger institutions, fostering innovation, and benefiting from the digital transformation. We remain committed to strengthening international cooperation, promoting fair competition and transparency, and ensuring that globalization works for all.

Slovakia's vision for development financing is holistic. We recognize the important role of official development assistance (ODA); however, we must continue to explore additional options. ODA should also be used strategically as a catalyst for mobilizing other financial resources, including domestic and private capital.

Slovakia recognizes the critical role that existing international financial institutions play within the global financial architecture. These institutions have built expertise over decades. While we fully support efforts to make them more efficient, transparent, and fit for the 21st century, their independence must be preserved to ensure stability. Slovakia firmly believes we must build on existing structures rather than duplicate them.

In conclusion, Slovakia will continue to be advocate for multilateralism, constructive dialogue and collective solutions that balance economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental responsibility.

Because only resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies can face nowadays challenges, including climate change, inequality, debt pressures and crises in our multipolar system. Even the 2030 Agenda recognizes that for development to be sustainable, it must be resilient.

I am convinced, that our common determination and our joint efforts will contribute to the UNCTAD's work programme for the next period. We are fully committed to a successful outcome that will confirm UNCTAD's central role in promoting trade and development.