



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Cambodia





REMARKS BY LOK CHUMTEAV TEUKRETH KAMRANG
SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SIXTEEN SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD 16)

General Debate Session
20 October 2025

Time: 7 Minutes

His Excellency Guy Parmelin, Federal Counsellor of the Swiss Confederation, and President of the 16th Session of the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference

Her Excellency Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour for the Kingdom of Cambodia to participate in this important session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. We express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the timely and insightful report, *"Shaping the Future: Driving Economic Transformation for Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Development."*
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China, Asia-Pacific Group and the LDC Group.
3. My delegation would also like to join others to express our appreciation to the Swiss Confederation for hosting this important UNCTAD16 admits the poly crises and global uncertainty.
- 4.
5. Cambodia fully supports the call for a renewed commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in a world facing serious challenges including persistent inequalities, rising protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and a worsening triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—that places immense pressure on the least developed countries like Cambodia. In this context, we strongly endorse accelerating the four transformations outlined in the Bridgetown Covenant—trade, investment, finance, and technology—as core pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Cambodia endorses the four priority areas identified in the report:
 - i. **More diversified economies**
Cambodia is working to move beyond traditional sectors by investing in digital technology, green growth, and human capital. However, Cambodia is still in need of

international support to more deeply integrate into global value chains, more substantially diversify exports, and more significantly upgrade industries.

ii. **More sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies**

As one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, despite contributing minimally to global emissions, we believe resilience-building must be a shared responsibility. Access to adaptation finance, technology transfer, and green investment is essential.

iii. **More abundant and stable finance for development**

Fiscal constraints remain a major barrier. We call for increased concessional finance, fair debt restructuring mechanisms, and reliable climate financing to support long-term development.

iv. **More multilateralism in a multipolar world**

Cambodia reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism. In an increasingly multipolar world, inclusive and effective global cooperation is essential to ensure that developing countries have a meaningful voice in economic governance.

7. Despite progress, Cambodia—like many other Least Developed Countries—still faces structural vulnerabilities, limited productive capacity, and exposure to external shocks. Nonetheless, our experience also shows the potential for transformation.
8. We have achieved notable gains in diversification, regional integration, and investment in infrastructure and education. But climate risks, a narrow industrial base, and digital challenges persist. Overcoming these requires sustained international partnership and support.
9. Cambodia is committed to graduating from LDC status and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but we recognize that we cannot do this alone. As we move toward graduation, UNCTAD's continued support—as a knowledge hub, technical partner, and platform for dialogue—is vital to addressing ongoing structural challenges and building a resilient, inclusive, and knowledge-based economy.
10. We always recognize the significant role of UNCTAD as the focal point within the United Nations for trade and development. Likewise, we fully support a stronger and more effective UNCTAD that can respond to the pressing challenges of our time through its important pillars, such as research and policy analysis, intergovernmental consensus-building, and technical cooperation, which together provide developing countries like Cambodia with lessons learnt and best practices, as well as assistance and capacity needed to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.
11. We welcome the 16 Actions proposed for UNCTAD XVI, and strongly encourage the organization to:
 - Strengthen support for productive capacity-building in LDCs;
 - Advance work on trade and gender, particularly for women in informal sectors;
 - Promote digital inclusion, ensuring no country is left behind in the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
 - Continue convening stakeholders to build fairer and more resilient global value chains.

12. Finally, Cambodia stands ready to work with all partners to build a global economy that is fair, inclusive, and sustainable—for this generation and the next. I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.