



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Denmark



UNCTAD16

Oral Statement by Denmark

“Shaping the Future — Trade and Development for All Peoples”

Chair, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

It is an honour to address you today under the timely banner of UNCTAD16 – “Shaping the Future.” Our world is changing and being disrupted in ways that test our shared commitment to sustainable development. Global shocks, such as Russia’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine, as well as major disruptions in funding to global supply chains, are major challenges facing the international community, and of course in particular developing countries.

The Danish Government recently launched a new development policy, “A Changing World – Partnerships in Development,” which aligns well with UNCTAD’s mission. Both rest on a simple conviction — that fair, balanced, inclusive trade and investment are powerful tools to create peace, prosperity, and sustainability. Not just for some, but for all peoples. The policy also maintains the level of Danish ODA at 0,7% of Gross National Income.

[Development Policy and Support for Developing Countries]

For six decades, UNCTAD has been the driving force within the United Nations system for advancing trade and development. Facilitating ideas are being put turned into action — helping countries translate global aspirations into concrete, national progress.

Allow me to highlight some of UNCTAD's key results and why they matter to us all:

- UNCTAD's research and technical assistance have helped governments craft trade and investment policies that foster inclusive growth and resilience.
- Through initiatives like E-Trade for All and the Digital Economy Report, UNCTAD helps developing countries harness technology, close connectivity gaps, and enable innovation.
Denmark shares this vision — promoting education, digital access, and innovation as engines trade and sustainable growth.
- UNCTAD's Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) can potentially strengthen financial transparency and governance.
Denmark's emphasis on good governance and equal partnerships echoes this principle: strong, accountable institutions are essential for lasting development.

UNCTAD's work on Green Trade and Sustainable Freight Transport demonstrates how economic growth and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. As a large shipping nation, Denmark attaches great importance to this agenda. Our own national strategy also places the green transition at its core — promoting renewable energy, sustainable jobs, and investments that protect both people and the planet.

We believe that solidarity and responsibility are the foundations of global stability. Denmark strongly supports UNCTAD's advocacy on fair access to finance, debt relief for vulnerable economies, and responsible capital flows.

Denmark therefore also strongly supports the conclusion at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Sevilla and the implementation of the agreed Plan for Action. We are in fact increasingly using development funds as catalysts to mobilize public and private investment — ensuring that one Danish krone unlocks many more for sustainable growth.

And as mentioned, Denmark is one of only four countries in the world that consistently meets or exceed the United Nations target of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance.

Let me also highlight UNCTAD's priority on Least Developed Countries and Africa, which resonates deeply with Denmark's commitments. This is, and will remain, a cornerstone of our development cooperation. A recent and very concrete example is our commitment of more the 2½ mil. EUROS to *Enhanced Integrated Framework*, the only multilateral program dedicated to supporting LDCs in close partnership with WTO.

UNCTAD's programs has empowered hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs — especially women and young innovators. When women and MSMEs are empowered, communities grow stronger, markets become fairer, and societies become more resilient. We applaud UNCTAD's *Trade, Gender and Development Programme* integrates gender equality into trade policy and

empowers women entrepreneurs. No nation can achieve its full potential if half of its population is excluded from opportunity.

Partnerships are cornerstones. We share the principles laid out by UNCTAD that partnerships must be equal, respectful, and locally led. For Denmark, this means moving beyond one-way aid toward genuine collaboration that enables countries to chart their own development paths.

Friends and colleagues, in closing I want to return to the point made at the outset – that our world is indeed changing. How we respond will determine the kind of future we shape. Going forward UNCTAD needs to adapt to a new reality – with a clear strategic focus on its main mandates, together with the other UN organizations in implementing the UN Secretary General's UN80 reform. Let us be reminded that fair trade and inclusive development are not luxuries; they are necessities for peace, equality, and global progress.

Thank you.